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No. 71

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 7, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LYNN A. WESTMORELAND to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, You have blessed us as a Nation since our earliest days. Present problems are no easier to resolve and today's decisions no less difficult to make than those closer to the birth of this Nation. So this morning, Lord, we pray that wisdom remain our constant companion.

Your sacred scripture tells us, "Wisdom is the brightness that streams from everlasting light, the flawless mirror of the active power of God and the image of goodness. She is but one, yet can do everything; herself unchanging, she makes all things new. Age after age she enters into human souls and makes them God's friends and prophets."

Lord, grant that power always have wisdom as its sister, both now and forever. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation among the Speaker and the majority and minority leaders, the Chair announces that during the joint meeting to hear an address by Her Excellency Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of the Republic of Latvia, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his right and left will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the Chair feels the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday, May 25, 2006, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1056

### JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HER EXCELLENCY DR. VAIRA VIKE-FREIBERGA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Bill Sims, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort Her Excellency Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of the Republic of Latvia, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM);

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON);

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS);

The gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON);

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER); and

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort Her Excellency Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of the Republic of Latvia, into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS);

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL);

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN); and

The Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Banny De Brum, Ambassador of the Marshall Islands.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

At 11 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m., the Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced Her Excellency Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of the Republic of Latvia.

The President of the Republic of Latvia, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, it is my great privilege and I deem it a high honor and a personal pleasure to present to you Her Excellency Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of the Republic of Latvia.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

#### ADDRESS BY HER EXCELLENCY DR. VAIRA VIKE-FREIBERGA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA

President VIKE-FREIBERGA. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, distinguished Members of the House of Representatives, honorable Senators, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is with deep emotion that I stand within these august walls and thank you for the honor of addressing you on behalf of the Latvian people.

I believe this honor to be bestowed upon me in recognition of Latvia's strivings, sacrifices and extraordinary success in transforming itself from a captive nation under the yoke of a foreign totalitarian regime into a reestablished democracy with a flourishing market economy.

Fifteen years ago, Latvia, along with neighboring Estonia and Lithuania, regained its independence after 50 years of Soviet occupation. The Baltic Singing Revolution achieved this by non-violent means and the sheer courage and determination of the peoples of

these countries. They were ready to face Soviet guns and tanks with nothing but their unarmed bodies and the deep conviction of their rights, knowing full well that, at any moment, these guns and tanks might crush them as they had crushed so many before.

After the collapse of the once powerful Soviet empire, Latvians at long last recovered their fundamental rights and freedoms. They regained the right to forge their own destiny; they recovered the freedom to shape their own future.

For too long the Iron Curtain had kept Europe divided and the nations of the world confronted each other in two opposing camps. We thank the Lord that these times are behind us at last. Dozens of nations have gained or regained their sovereignty. For them, right has triumphed over might, courage has overcome fear, and dignity has replaced humiliation and oppression.

The wave of freedom and democratic reform has been spreading throughout Central and Eastern Europe, extending from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea and into the Caucasus. One country after another, with the sad exception of Belarus, has been making a commitment to democracy and has accepted the need for the rule of law and the respect of human rights.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, distinguished Members of Congress, it is an honor and a pleasure to be addressing you as the elected Representatives of a great country, a mighty world power that has achieved its greatness by building its house on the solid rock of democracy. The United States of America has remained ever faithful to Lincoln's goal of having a government of the people, for the people and by the people.

Born 230 years ago, your great Nation has grown strong by being a warm and welcoming Mother of Exiles as well as a land of hope and opportunity for its own sons and daughters. Among the exiles received in America, there were many Latvians who had fled their native land at the end of the Second World War.

Latvia remains grateful to the United States for opening its doors to a good many of these exiles, who gained the right to live here in peace, justice and liberty, while many of their relatives back home suffered oppression and brutal persecutions. They quickly became loyal and patriotic citizens of America, productive members of your society, many achieving positions of distinction and responsibility.

Latvia remains grateful to the United States for the firm refusal to recognize the illegal occupation of the three Baltic countries. Along with the other formerly captive nations of Central and Eastern Europe, we thank America for its steadfast and courageous stand on freedom and democracy.

You were instrumental in assisting Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania in the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from their territories. The U.S.-Baltic Charter of Partnership of 1998 gave di-

rection to our common goal and vision of the Baltic States joining Euro-Atlantic institutions. We recall the unanimous vote by the United States Senate in support of the latest enlargement of NATO. Since then, the United States has helped to ensure the collective defense of the Baltic airspace. For all this, we are grateful.

Latvia has had the honor of receiving two American Presidents since recovering its independence: President Clinton in 1994 and President Bush last year. We look forward to receiving President Bush again this fall when the 2006 NATO Summit convenes in Riga. We count ourselves fortunate to have the United States of America as a true friend and trusted ally.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, distinguished Members of Congress, I stand before you as a former exile, who has had the rare privilege of returning to her native land, free and independent again; a former exile who has had the deep satisfaction of helping her country rise like a phoenix from the ashes of oppression. I am the representative of a resilient and stubborn nation whose people have struggled against all odds to preserve their ancient heritage, maintain their language alive, and remain true to their national identity. It has been indeed a privilege to lead this nation while it recovered its rightful place among the world community of free and democratic countries.

The road has not been easy. Renewing independence was just the first step. We still had to rebuild a country, not just starting from scratch, but only after clearing away the rubble left by the previous system. Just 15 years ago, we had to make the transition from a stagnant, state-planned, command economy to a workable, liberal, free-market economy. It was a formidable challenge. While we were fortunate in regaining our independence without significant bloodshed, our inhabitants did pay a heavy economic and social price for their freedom. They were ready to do so because they understood that this was an investment in a better future.

Overcoming years of constant change, uncertainty and adaptation, Latvia has become a success story. An unfinished story by all means, especially as concerns the standard of living of our people, but a success story nevertheless. Last year, Latvia's economy grew by more than 10 percent, and this year my country continues to maintain the highest economic growth rate on the European continent. We are on our way, ready to share our experience and pass it on to others.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, distinguished Members of Congress, what has helped Latvia and its Baltic neighbors succeed where so many others are failing, in spite of not just years, but decades of help and encouragement of every kind?

It was above all the faith of the Baltic nations in the values of freedom and democracy. It was their firm and

irreversible determination to build a new and better future for their children and grandchildren. They wanted to rejoin the free world from which they had been cut off for half a century.

What urged us on was our ardent desire to make up for lost time, and to catch up to those Western European countries that had enjoyed the freedom of growing and thriving ever since the end of the Second World War. The desire to join NATO and the European Union became a force driving us forward, as strong as the force driving us away from the past under Soviet dictatorship. This clear sense of purpose allowed us to transform our institutions and to reform our economy.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, distinguished Members of Congress, the challenge, ever since the fall of the Soviet empire and the breakup of the former Yugoslavia, has been to rebuild a Europe whole and free, a Europe free of dividing lines, of feudal dependencies, of imperialist spheres of influence; a Europe free from bloodthirsty ideologies and from murderous fanatics. We need a Europe without walls, barriers, exclusion or prejudice, a Europe in which every nation would be afforded equal dignity and would be treated with equal respect. All Europeans, after all, are part of the same Old Continent, and all of them need to work together to make it eternally new.

Such a Europe is not and must not be a counterforce to the influence of the United States. It is and must continue to be an ally and a partner. All Europeans share the fundamentals of the same broad cultural heritage, a heritage that is also shared by Americans.

This heritage includes outstanding achievements as well as resounding failures. A common European space of peace and stability, of economic growth and prosperity is the best guarantee that the Europe of the 21st century will never again repeat the errors and the horrors of the 20th. We have seen the depths to which Europe could sink as well as the heights to which it could rise. Never again should we allow such horrors as the Holocaust to be repeated. We need to aim for the heights and to help each other achieve them.

Yet it is perfectly true that Latvia, along with other Central and Eastern European countries, feels a special bond of friendship and affinity with the United States. We might as well admit it. We, who had lost our liberty, look up to those who are ready to defend it. But if the bond of trust and friendship between the U.S. and the newer members of the EU and NATO is to be deepened, strengthened and maintained, we do need more face-to-face contacts between our peoples. We need more possibilities of visits and mutual exchanges. I trust that the U.S. Congress will find a nondiscriminatory solution for extending the Visa Waiver Program to all its allies in a united Europe. Such a step would be broadly welcomed as a signal of growing maturity in the alliance between our nations.

We are partners, even though we differ in size, in influence, in power, in resources. We are partners even while having different opinions on certain issues. That, after all, is the whole point of living in democracies. Any disagreements must not steer us off our common course of consolidating peace and security in the world.

My country sees Europe's transatlantic partnership with the United States as essential for our common security as well as for maintaining the security of the world at large. The U.S. has been a trusted partner whenever European liberties were endangered and proved it through the sacrifice of the lives of its soldiers. Throughout the decades of the Cold War, Western Europe was kept safe under the protection of NATO and through the significant role of American military capability.

This coming November, Latvia will host the 2006 NATO Summit in its capital city of Riga. This will be a summit about the rejuvenation and the transformation of NATO, which remains the most powerful and effective military alliance in the whole world. We need a strong and vibrant alliance, able to face up effectively to the challenges of our age. The nature of threats may change, but the danger they pose does not.

NATO is not only about protecting its members within their own borders. We are ready to work closely with the United States and other willing partners to aid those strife-ridden countries whose fragility is a bane for their own people and a threat to the rest of the world. Right now, Latvia is contributing to international peacekeeping operations in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Bosnia, in Kosovo, and elsewhere. Latvia's contribution is proportionately one of the largest in the world in terms of the country's size and available financial resources.

From its very inception, NATO has been more than just a military alliance. That is why more and more nations are expressing their desire to join it. We support the strivings for freedom, democracy and the rule of law of countries struggling with the after-effects of imposed totalitarianism. Latvia supports Ukraine and Georgia in their endeavors to establish closer relations with NATO. We encourage the member states of the alliance to formulate concrete and enhanced forms of cooperation between NATO and these two countries at the Riga summit. We firmly believe that an open door policy must be maintained for the admittance of future member states.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, distinguished Members of Congress, one nation with which Latvia shares a common border, as well as a complicated history, is Russia.

Last year marked the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. This victory brought freedom to one half of Europe, but not to the other. After being Hitler's partner for 2

years, Stalin had joined the Allies in ridding Europe of this bloodthirsty tyrant. In recognition of that role and in homage to the immense losses and casualties that the Russian people endured during the Second World War, I accepted the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation and traveled to Moscow on May 9 of last year.

But I also pointed out that this victory over one despot still kept the other one in power. For the people of Latvia, one foreign occupation was only replaced by another. No one gained freedom under Stalinist tyranny and the oppression of totalitarian Communism. This is not rewriting history. These are plain facts. The simple acknowledgment and recognition of them would go a long way toward strengthening trust, understanding, and good neighborly relations between our nations.

Latvia, for its part, stands ready for developing a friendly, future-oriented, and pragmatic relationship with Russia as an important neighbor of the EU. We stand ready for an active and meaningful political dialogue based on mutual respect, noninterference, and the true respect for human rights.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, distinguished Representatives of the American people, as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, the United States of America has a crucial role to play in the international arena. The United States has been a beacon of liberty ever since its foundation. The United States has become a world power by giving free rein to the creativity, the initiative and the energy of its people by fostering their entrepreneurial spirit. But the United States has become a world leader only to the extent that it has not been indifferent to the fates, the aspirations and the opinions of other nations.

For if no man is an island, neither is any country alone and self-sufficient. All of us, large and small, are interlocked, intertwined, and interdependent. If we want peace in the world, if we want international cooperation, persuasion is as important as imposition by force. Smaller and weaker nations want to be meaningfully included in decisions that will affect us all. They want to be respected. When they clamor for multilateralism, nations are really saying: Listen to me. I want to be heard.

Of course, among all this clamor, it may be hard to find a common denominator. It is not always easy to achieve a common purpose. We see this all too clearly in the difficulties that the United Nations is experiencing in bringing about all the reforms agreed to in principle during the General Assembly of their 60th anniversary year.

As a Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on the reform of the United Nations last year, I was pleased that the General Assembly managed to agree in principle on the necessity for sweeping and fundamental reforms.

The new Peace-Building Commission was created, which we need for diffusing long-lasting conflicts. Too often in the past, the U.N. has been unable to prevent genocide and lasting bloodshed: in the Congo, in Rwanda, in the former Yugoslavia, and now in the Darfur region of Sudan.

One of the U.N.'s fundamental roles lies in the defense of human rights. The newly created Human Rights Council must become more credible and more effective than the commission that preceded it. Its best way to gain credibility would be by starting with a thorough and unbiased evaluation of the human rights record of its own newly elected council members.

Only through a concerted international effort based on consensus and cooperation will the world community be able to overcome a number of other pressing global challenges. The degradation of our planet's environment is truly a global problem, as is the spread of epidemic disease. Most dangerous of all is the continuing and growing gap between the developing and developed nations. The great divide between North and South, between haves and have-nots is as dangerous as the divide between Eastern and Western blocs ever was during the Cold War. We have to do our utmost to reach the U.N.'s millennium goals of reducing poverty in the developing world.

Brutal and unrelenting poverty is a scourge, unsolved in spite of decades of massive international aid and countless well-meant programs. Clearly, the quality of governance in aid-receiving countries has a crucial role to play, as well as their readiness to foster reforms and progress. But the quality of aid-providing efforts also needs to be improved. We need better international coordination of results-oriented programs, which should be constantly monitored for their effectiveness.

The worldwide spread of terrorism as well as the growing signs of intolerance and xenophobia in many countries underscore the urgent worldwide need for a meaningful and sustained dialogue between civilizations. As already recognized at the Millennium General Assembly of the United Nations, our common goal is to overcome the prejudice, misperceptions and polarization that stand as barriers to better understanding and consensus among members of different races, religions and cultures.

Due to the enormous importance of nuclear nonproliferation, the world's democracies should maintain a coherent position regarding the nuclear program of Iran. We welcome the recent joint initiatives by the United States, the United Nations Security Council and the European Union to offer a constructive solution to the Iranian nuclear issue and hope that the Iranian leadership will respond in kind.

The longstanding conflict in the Middle East remains a major source of world tensions. We fully empathize with the desire of the Jewish people to

live on their ancestral land in security and at peace with their neighbors. We also wish to see a free and prosperous Palestinian state coexist, peacefully, side by side with the State of Israel. For this to be achieved, the Hamas-led Palestinian administration must abide by previously signed international agreements. There is no other way.

Education could play an important role in immunizing our societies against the dangers of extremism and prejudice. Children should not be raised in hatred; societies should have more constructive goals than the endless cultivation of grievances and the stark division of the human race into "us" and "them."

Every society has experienced some dark events in its history, at times as victim, at others as perpetrator or collaborator. We must inform our children of our past mistakes, so that these may never be repeated again. An objective evaluation of the legacy of the past will free us to address the challenges of the future. We in Latvia believe in the importance of research, remembrance, and education, even on the most sensitive issues. This includes the crimes of the Holocaust while Latvia was under Nazi German occupation, as well as the crimes committed in the name of Communism under the Soviet occupation regime.

It is also the duty of each country to preserve its historic, cultural, and religious heritage. Latvia is a country with a multiethnic and multireligious mosaic. We are proud of our ethnic communities and of the contributions that their sons and daughters have made to Latvia's human, economic, and cultural development. As a pluralistic and flourishing democracy, we enjoy freedom of religion and have been gradually renewing the houses of worship of different faiths, including the many desecrated Lutheran churches, desecrated in Communist times. Soon after recovering our independence, we received a visit by Pope John Paul II. Last month, the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church, Aleksey II, paid a historic visit to my country. Just recently, with the support of the U.S. Government and the family of the late Latvian-born painter Mark Rothko, I attended the reconsecration ceremony of a reconstructed Jewish synagogue in the city of Daugavpils.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, distinguished Members of Congress, fanaticism and extremism remain a scourge of humanity, as they have been for many centuries. Violence and hatred continue to plague many nations and block their road to achieving progress. Greed, opportunism, and brute force oppress many peoples and deny them the most basic of human rights. Yet just as clearly, the world also knows charity, compassion, and the desire for kindness. Human beings everywhere are capable of change, and change for the better.

Again and again in history, we have seen the victory of freedom over tyr-

anny, exploitation and chaos. It may take decades, as it did for Latvia, but we did gain the freedom that is ours by right. We know the value of freedom and feel compassion for those who are still deprived of it. We know the price of freedom, for we have paid for it, and we would be ready to do it again and again.

Every nation on Earth is entitled to freedom. It is a dream that must be kept alive, no matter how long it takes or how hard it is to achieve. We must share the dream that someday there won't be a tyranny left anywhere in the world. We must work for a future where every nation on Earth will have thrown off the shackles of injustice and of oppression, and where every person on Earth will enjoy the same rights and liberties that now are the privilege of the more democratic and the more developed countries. It will take time, it will take effort, but it must happen. And it will happen all the sooner the better we learn to work for it and plan for it, all of us, large and small, together.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

At 11 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m., Her Excellency Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of the Republic of Latvia, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps from the Chamber.

#### JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 11 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1225

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at 12 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.

#### PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

## TAX RELIEF HELPS OUR ECONOMY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, the U.S. Department of Commerce reported that our Nation's real gross domestic product was revised from 4.8 percent up to 5.3 percent. That is the fastest growth of our GDP in 2½ years. That is not the only good news. Our economy has created 5.3 million jobs since May 2003. 75,000 jobs were created last month alone. Unemployment has dropped from 6.3 percent to 4.7 percent, lower than the average of the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. Personal income increased at an annual rate of 6.7 percent in April. The Treasury Department is reporting the highest annual tax receipts ever. The Federal budget deficit is \$38 billion lower today than in May 2003. Last month Republicans approved a tax conference agreement that will continue this economic boom, and once again, the Democrats fought to stop it. In fact, if Democrats had their way, we would all face a massive tax hike.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans will continue to hold the line on spending and extend tax relief for all Americans. We know that these for-growth policies work, and they will continue to foster economic growth.

REFINERY PERMIT PROCESS  
SCHEDULE ACT

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, it is beginning to sound like a broken record around here: another week of record high gas prices, another Republican bill that benefits oil companies without helping consumers. Five years of Republicans' failed energy policies have resulted in Americans paying twice as much at the pump as they did in 2001, while big oil companies make triple the profits.

To distract Americans from this fact, Republicans have put forth the pro-oil company bills like the current Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act which they claim will lower fuel costs for consumers by allowing oil companies to drill more freely. Instead, the bill simply offers yet another needless handout to large oil companies in the form of weakened local regulation where any local public health and environmental concern could be ignored.

Mr. Speaker, instead of taking initiative and moving forward with real solutions to the growing fuel crisis in our country, Republicans offer more of the same. This is just another handout to Big Oil, which is exactly what got us into this mess. Democrats have put forth a real plan for energy independence by 2020. Americans know it is time for a change.

## BROADCAST DECENCY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the effort to bring real decency standards to our airwaves is taking a major step forward this week. A couple of weeks ago, the Senate passed the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act ending months of inaction by that body on the issue, and the House had passed its own version earlier last year.

While there are differences between the two bills, they both send a clear message: If you violate decency standards over broadcast airwaves, you will pay a price, a big price. Under current law, fines are limited to \$32,500 per violation. The bill we will vote on today gives the FCC real teeth to enforce decency standards by increasing fines to 10 times that amount. Broadcasters will think twice about airing obscene material if they know it will cost them more than a quarter million dollars to do so.

Mr. Speaker, common decency is under attack in our society. The airwaves often lead the charge. Broadcast decency legislation seeks to do something about that. I applaud my colleagues in the House and Senate for acting on the issue, urge the Members to vote for the bill, send it to the President for his signature, and once again, enforce broadcast decency laws in our country.

□ 1230

NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFIDENCE  
DAY

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the first National Women's Confidence Day. This is a joint effort of YWCA-USA CEO Peggy Sanchez Mills and superstar Queen Latifa, and I am absolutely thrilled that they are able to join us today in the gallery. Thank you so much for coming.

Today and every first Wednesday in June hereafter will be National Women's Confidence Day. This event is a reminder to women everywhere to have self-respect and to empower themselves with confidence every single day, an opportunity for women to get involved in helping other women to live a more confident and fulfilling life and a tribute to women who help other women gain self-confidence and self-esteem.

The goal of National Women's Confidence Day is to raise public awareness and celebrate the positive impact of confidence on women's personal and professional lives. This is one that I support and applaud. I invite everyone to join us in encouraging all women across America to have the confidence to make change.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members that it is against the rules to introduce guests in the gallery.

HONORING OUR MILITARY  
MEMBERS

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have just returned from Iraq where I had the privilege of spending Memorial Day with our troops from Florida. I went to Iraq for two reasons: First, to say thank you to our troops for their service; and, second, to see for myself how things were going in Iraq by meeting with our generals, our soldiers, and the Iraqi leaders.

The day I was there was quite hot, 115 degrees, and it was violent. Forty people were killed while I was there, including one U.S. soldier and two CBS news employees. I was so impressed with the bravery of our soldiers. For example, one soldier had his helicopter shot out of the sky. Upon landing, he replaced the blades in the helicopter with brand-new blades and went right back into battle.

Regardless of how you feel about the war in Iraq, realize that our troops are in harm's way, they are performing very bravely, and they deserve our support 100 percent in the U.S. Congress.

TIME FOR A NEW AGENDA IN  
WASHINGTON

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I feel a great injustice is being done to our Nation. It seems that our Republican colleagues decided to place the concerns of the American people aside so they can continue to divide us. Mr. Speaker, our country needs solutions to problems. Unfortunately, the majority is so out of touch with the average citizens of this Nation, they refuse to see the true important issues. Americans are worried about how they are going to pay for their children's college tuition. That is why we have a plan on helping parents better afford college by doubling the amount they can write off for their children's tuition.

America is worried about how they are going to pay for their high energy bills. That is why we need an energy package that ends our dependence on foreign oil.

These are issues that are important to all our citizens. We need a change from the "no solution" rhetoric of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. The American citizens are tired of the division of our Nation. We need to unite our Nation and begin to govern not just for the few but for all.

That is what we have been elected to do and that is what we should demand of ourselves. It is time for a new agenda here in Washington, one that focuses on the issues of all Americans, not just the few.

#### HONORING JAMES P. GREENE

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as we take time to reflect this week on D-Day and World War II, we reflect on the men who proudly fought for the ideals on which our country was founded, freedom and a democratic way of life. On December 7, 1941, our Nation was attacked, the worst attack on American soil until September 11, 2001, and that day our Nation was at war.

Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine, Mr. James P. Greene from my home county of Oconee County, South Carolina, was aboard the USS *Detroit* in Pearl Harbor on that fateful day. Fortunately, Mr. Greene survived the attack, and I am proud to say he continued on in service to his country, spending the entire war in the Pacific Theater. In fact, Mr. Greene also served in the Korean War, and his entire naval career spanned from 1939 to 1961.

I would like to say to Mr. Greene and countless other World War II veterans just like him listening today, as a veteran who served after you and as an American citizen, thank you. Thank you for your service and thank you for your sacrifice. Our Nation is forever in your debt.

#### MISGUIDED REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES AND ENERGY

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because the misguided Republican priorities are hurting the pocketbooks of America's working families. Consumer inflation has risen at a rate of 3.2 percent in just the past 3 months, well above what the Federal Reserve is comfortable with. Gas prices continue to rise over \$3.50 in my district and more. Yet, Republicans have prioritized legislation to benefit wealthy oil companies. These legislative priorities tie the hands of our States and risk public health, all to protect companies which can afford the give their executives \$400 billion retirement packages.

This administration and this body continue to delay real action to help working-class families. I believe that we should increase production of alternative fuels, rescind the billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies, tax breaks, and royalty relief given to big oil and gas companies, and work toward making America energy independent by the year 2020. America's working families must be our priority, not oil and gas companies.

#### EXPRESSING UNWAVERING CONFIDENCE FOR UNWAVERING AMERICAN TROOPS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, every day, U.S. troops risk their lives in Iraq to perform a mission which improves the national security of our country. Their sacrifices are immeasurable and these brave men and women remain dedicated to facing terrorists on the streets of Iraq so that we do not have to face them at home.

Last week, I had the fortunate opportunity to visit Iraq for the sixth time. While visiting with military leaders, Iraqi government officials and U.S. troops, I was inspired to learn of the tremendous progress occurring throughout this new democracy. Iraqi security forces continue to gain greater control over their country. In only 7 months, these forces have expanded from two brigades and 19 battalions to 14 brigades and 57 battalions.

As American troops and Iraqi security forces demonstrate strength on the battlefields of Iraq, we must also demonstrate our unwavering confidence in their mission for victory in the global war on terrorism.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

#### ON THE REFINERY PERMIT PROCESS SCHEDULE ACT

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, American families are facing record-breaking prices at the gas pump this summer. But apparently, the priority of Republicans in Congress is to keep providing giveaways to wealthy oil companies.

This week, Republican leaders are bringing another unnecessary piece of legislation to the House floor in an effort to make it seem like they're meeting the challenge of high fuel prices. As most of us know, however, appearances can be deceiving.

Let's be clear about what this Republican refinery bill won't do. Just like the Republican push to drill for oil in Alaska, today's refinery bill won't take one penny off high gas prices. Not one penny.

Let's also be clear about what this Republican refinery bill will do. Quite simply, it gives rich oil companies free real estate to build refineries.

And what if the free land happens to be in your backyard? What if a refinery violates local environmental concerns? What if your neighborhood objects to having a refinery in your backyard? According to this bill, well, you're just on your own.

If you care anything about alternative energy development, State and

local rights, the environment, or American families, vote "no" on this misguided bill.

#### RAPE TREES

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Ripped from the bodies of unwilling women, undergarments cling to branches of a tree just a few feet from the lawless U.S.-Mexico border. Dozens of pairs of underwear thrown there by rapists.

These are called rape trees. Each pair is a trophy from a woman that was smuggled into the United States. Victims that are heard screaming in the desert. They are raped, even gang raped by illegal human smugglers, then forced into silence.

These trees are a warning. Illegal immigrants evade our borders but crime doesn't evade them. Some become criminals. Some become victims. They are raped, robbed and murdered by other illegals. Human smugglers and brutal criminals who then claim other victims.

More than 70 percent of their rapes, murders and child sex crimes are against Americans. One expert who studies sex crimes says about a hundred illegal sex offenders cross the border every day, leaving thousands of victims every year.

Rape trees are a warning to illegals not to talk. They should be a warning to Americans as well: to shout out against illegal entry and human smuggling.

And that's just the way it is.

#### GOP DO-NOTHING CONGRESS REFUSES TO LEAD

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the do-nothing Republican Congress continues to move along at a snail's pace, refusing to address any of the tough decisions that Americans so desperately want this Congress to tackle. Today is the 160th day of the year, but only the 40th voting day here in the House. Imagine that. It is no wonder that the American people have lost faith in Washington.

The House Republican leadership has simply run out of ideas. Rather than proposing a forward-looking energy initiative, House Republicans continue to push Big Oil's tired old ideas, ideas that will do absolutely nothing to lower gas prices for the American consumer.

Rather than explore ways to help Americans better afford ever-increasing health care premiums, House Republicans will once again follow the playbook of the insurance industry when, later this month, they will propose health care bills that only help enrich insurance companies.

Mr. Speaker, time is running out for the House Republican do-nothing Congress to actually provide some real

leadership and some new ideas. The American people are waiting.

#### HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express the shock, disgust and frustration that I have felt since the Department of Homeland Security slashed homeland security money for New York and increased funding for other smaller, rural cities across America.

For many months since 9/11, Congress has been working to convince this administration that a risk-based distribution formula is the right way to protect Americans in cities like New York that are the most vulnerable to terrorist attacks. If the mission at Homeland Security is truly to protect America, then Department of Homeland Security funding should never be a pork-barrel matter. Yet the lack of common sense displayed by cutting New York's funding by 40 percent, while increasing the funding of nearly every other city, demonstrates that the threat is clearly not foremost in the minds of the DHS.

This is a slap in the face to all of us who experienced 9/11 in New York. We need to look no further than the 9/11 Commission report to understand that we must dedicate our resources to areas like New York where the risks are the highest and where multiple terrorist attacks have already occurred.

Our constituents ask us to spend taxpayer money wisely. By cutting first responder funding for New York and instead sending it to other areas of the country that are not at as much risk, the administration has failed terribly in its responsibility to spend taxpayer dollars wisely. If truly committed to securing our homeland, the administration must work with New York and immediately correct this horrendous blunder.

#### ON INTRODUCTION OF THE PLUG-IN HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLE ACT OF 2006

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle Act of 2006, H.R. 5538. This bill will help reduce our Nation's dependence on foreign sources of oil by promoting plug-in vehicles and advancing new vehicle technologies. It also establishes a partnership between private and public entities to focus on electric drive technology.

Americans are concerned about high gas prices, our dependence on foreign oil, and global warming. These cars have the potential to alleviate all three problems. The Federal Government needs to ensure that the research

and development of alternative energy vehicles continues. Congress has a responsibility to help promote this new technology, and I am pleased that this bill already has significant bipartisan support.

#### HUGH MORTON TRIBUTE

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, last week North Carolina lost one of its leading citizens and I lost a treasured constituent. Hugh Morton was, in all senses of the term, the "Keeper of the Mountain." As owner of Grandfather Mountain, he fought to protect and preserve its wildlife and scenic beauty for future generations.

Hugh Morton was also our State's leading and most acclaimed photographer, recording the history of the State of North Carolina for the past 70 years. Whether it was bald eagles soaring over his beloved Grandfather Mountain, or Michael Jordan soaring over the rim at Chapel Hill, Hugh Morton captured it all in breathtaking fashion.

He photographed a young aspiring actor in the 1950s named Andy Griffith and chronicled the legendary U.S. Senate race in 1984 between Senator Helms and Governor Hunt. From the mountains to the coast, Hugh Morton photographed all our State has to offer.

North Carolina lost one of its greatest promoters and advocates, Mr. Speaker, but fortunately his legacy lives on in more ways than we can imagine.

We will miss Hugh Morton.

□ 1245

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5521, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 849 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 849

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5521) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are

waived. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

House Resolution 849 provides for a structured rule with 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. It waives all points of order against consideration of the bill, and provides for one motion to recommit.

This rule also makes in order, as a structured rule, every amendment brought forward to the Rules Committee, so by anyone's standard this resolution would be designated as being very fair.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation, H.R. 5521, funds the legislative branch of our Federal Government, including Congress, the Capitol Police, the Congressional Budget Office, the Architect of the Capitol, the Capitol Visitor Center, the Library of Congress, the Government Printing Office, and the Government Accountability Office.

As one wise Member of our body said, the \$3 million provided in this bill to operate the legislative branch agencies under the jurisdiction of the House seem straightforward and fiscally responsible. I think if we overlooked this appropriations bill, which was passed in a bipartisan way, the two words you would say are an increase close to the cost-of-living adjustment and always less than what was requested. We requested a fiscally responsible bill.

For example, the overall budget is \$230 million less than the President's budget. The House of Representatives is funded at \$19 million less than the budget request. The Capitol Police gets \$12 million more than last year, but \$36 million below the request. The CBO is \$1 million more than last year, but \$1



million less than the request. The Architect's Office is \$5 million more, but \$114 million below the request. The Library of Congress is \$15 million more than last year, but \$18 million below the request. The GPO is \$9 million more, but \$21 million below the request. The Government Accountability Office is \$10 million more than last year, but \$14 million below the request.

There are a number of other changes made within the bill that I think are also positive. One of the changes will be for the Members' allowances. If they are unspent, they will be used to reduce the budget deficit. For someone who has regularly returned back at least 10 to 20 percent of my budget allocation, it is nice to know that it is also going to a worthy cause.

In addition, this bill provides provisions for increased congressional oversight and accountability on the completion of the much-anticipated Capitol Visitor Center, as well as some very specific report language and an amendment that dealt also with the Architect's Office and the Government Accountability Office until the new Architect is provided.

The underlying bill provides for full funding of staff COLAs and transit benefits, it bans smoking in the Rayburn cafeteria, and I understand on page 35 it says that the gentleman from Massachusetts will voluntarily give me his salary for the next year, or until my personal debt has been retired, whichever comes first, which will be the year.

It also provides for 50 new investigators in the General Accounting Office to conduct increased oversight on government contracts issued in the wake of hurricane devastation in the gulf coast as well as in Iraq.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, I think this underlying bill is fiscally responsible, provides modest increases in the essential legislative branch functions, but still provides less in almost every major category than the President's budget requested. So I urge adoption of this rule and its underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah, my friend, Mr. BISHOP, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I cannot recall the last time I came to the House floor to say anything good about a rule, but the fact of the matter is this is a good rule. Every Member who brought an amendment before the Rules Committee, their amendment has been made in order. So this is a good rule.

We have no speakers, we are not requiring any votes, and I want to thank the gentleman from Utah for bringing this to the floor.

I rise today in support of the FY 2007 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill. I commend

Chairman LEWIS and Ranking Member OBEY, as well as the rest of the Appropriations Committee, for all their hard work on this legislation.

Historically, the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill is not considered under an open process like the other appropriations bills. Instead, the House usually considers this bill under a closed process. However, even though the Rules Committee reported a restrictive rule again, this year every amendment offered in the Rules Committee was made in order.

Mr. Speaker, it's refreshing that this bill is a bipartisan product of the legislative process, a true rarity under this Republican leadership. The Republican leadership should look to this bill as a lesson in how this body should be run. Sunshine should be let it. Amendments should be made in order. Mr. Speaker, as much as possible, the process should be open.

The fact that Mr. OBEY and others had questions regarding the operations at the Office of the Architect of the Capitol was valid and was heard. With unanimous support in Committee, Ranking Member OBEY's amendment putting the Comptroller General in direct control over the office of the Architect of the Capitol and the establishment of an Office of the Inspector General in the Office of the Architect of the Capitol was offered and adopted. The rule protects that amendment from being struck from the bill.

Mr. Speaker, with an ever growing deficit of \$9 billion, I think even my good friend and colleague, Congressman FLAKE, would agree with me in the right to question where funds have been spent on the new Capitol Visitors Center. Now, I realize the cost is often never close to the estimate; however, this project was originally budgeted at \$265 million and the new projected cost estimate is \$556 million. That is \$25 million more than double the cost and we are not finished. Completion dates and costs seem to just be getting later and higher.

The rest of the budget for the Legislative Branch seems to get it right. Small overall increases help keep Congress functioning. With a \$110 million increase from FY06, this bill provides for 50 new Government Accountability Office, GAO, investigators to provide for increased oversight in gulf coast reconstruction and the war in Iraq. Providing for a strong and properly funded GAO is important, especially when considering that oversight is nonexistent in this Republican-controlled House.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman LEWIS and Ranking Member OBEY for their hard drafting this legislation and for their commitment to this body.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of my colleague from Massachusetts, I will appreciate his check, and I look forward to passing this particular bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5521, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

#### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 849 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5521.

The Chair designates the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and requests the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) to assume the chair temporarily.

□ 1256

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5521) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, with Mr. BOOZMAN (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The bill that we bring before you today is the legislative branch bill that funds the activities of the House. The bill includes approximately \$3 billion, excluding the Senate items, an increase of about 3.6 percent over FY 2006.

We worked very closely with Mr. OBEY and his staff in developing this bill. I want to thank the committee members on both sides of the aisle, as well as our very fine staff for the work they have done.

While the bill is very small in size, it is the fundamental oil that allows the legislative branch to carry out its important responsibilities relative to our Nation's legislative and governmental interests here in Washington.

The bill represents a \$224 million reduction, or 6.9 percent below the request. There will be no further reduction in the current workforce. All personnel cost-of-living increases and all



of their pay-related costs are provided. The Capitol Visitor Center is funded at the cost-to-complete level of \$25.6 million. This amount reflects the GAO's latest estimate, and the Architect has concurred with the estimate. An addi-

tional \$20.5 million is included for project fit-out and operations, essentially getting the place ready to go. The bill establishes an Inspector General in the Architect of the Capitol's Office. The IG will audit and report

semiannually on management and operations of the AOC.

We expect to complete this bill today and move forward from there to the foreign operations bill.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL 2007 (H.R. 5521)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH					
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES					
Salaries and Expenses					
House Leadership Offices					
Office of the Speaker.....	2,788	2,906	2,930	+142	+24
Office of the Majority Floor Leader.....	2,089	2,139	2,213	+124	+74
Office of the Minority Floor Leader.....	2,928	2,999	3,072	+144	+73
Office of the Majority Whip.....	1,797	1,843	1,921	+124	+78
Office of the Minority Whip.....	1,345	1,379	1,458	+113	+79
Speaker's Office for Legislative Floor Activities.....	482	491	491	+9	---
Republican Steering Committee.....	906	925	924	+18	-1
Republican Conference.....	1,548	1,699	1,699	+151	---
Republican Policy Committee.....	307	407	407	+100	---
Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.....	1,945	2,194	2,194	+249	---
Democratic Caucus.....	816	837	836	+20	-1
Nine minority employees.....	1,445	1,473	1,473	+28	---
Training and Program Development:					
Majority.....	290	290	290	---	---
Minority.....	290	290	290	---	---
Cloakroom Personnel:					
Majority.....	434	447	447	+13	---
Minority.....	434	447	447	+13	---
Subtotal, House Leadership Offices.....	19,844	20,766	21,092	+1,248	+326
Members' Representational Allowances Including Members' Clerk Hire, Official Expenses of Members, and Official Mail					
Expenses.....	534,109	559,628	557,796	+23,687	-1,832
Committee Employees					
Standing Committees, Special and Select.....	116,904	126,178	124,851	+7,947	-1,327
Committee on Appropriations (including studies and investigations).....	25,668	26,555	26,497	+829	-58
Subtotal, Committee employees.....	142,572	152,733	151,348	+8,776	-1,385
Salaries, Officers and Employees					
Office of the Clerk.....	21,911	22,820	21,505	-406	-1,315
Office of the Sergeant at Arms.....	6,284	6,256	6,240	-44	-16
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.....	121,471	114,192	109,301	-12,170	-4,891
Office of the Inspector General.....	3,991	4,212	4,204	+213	-8
Office for Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Operations.....	4,000	5,000	3,997	-3	-1,003
Office of General Counsel.....	962	962	959	-3	-3
Office of the Chaplain.....	161	164	164	+3	---
Office of the Parliamentarian.....	1,767	1,767	1,762	-5	-5
Office of the Parliamentarian.....	(1,546)	(1,407)	(1,403)	(-143)	(-4)
Compilation of precedents of the House of Representatives.....	(221)	(360)	(359)	(+138)	(-1)
Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House.....	2,453	2,527	2,521	+68	-6
Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House.....	6,963	7,425	7,406	+443	-19
Office of Interparliamentary Affairs.....	720	738	737	+17	-1
Other authorized employees.....	161	285	285	+124	---
Office of the Historian.....	405	500	500	+95	---
Subtotal, Salaries, officers and employees.....	171,249	166,848	159,581	-11,668	-7,267

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL 2007 (H.R. 5521)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<b>Allowances and Expenses</b>					
Supplies, materials, administrative costs and Federal tort claims.....	4,179	4,554	4,554	+375	---
Official mail for committees, leadership offices, and administrative offices of the House.....	410	410	410	---	---
Government contributions.....	213,422	223,252	217,253	+3,831	-5,999
Capitol Visitor Center.....	3,410	3,410	3,410	---	---
Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery.....	---	24,018	21,659	+21,659	-2,359
Miscellaneous items.....	703	703	703	---	---
Subtotal, Allowances and expenses.....	222,124	256,347	247,989	+25,865	-8,358
Total, Salaries and expenses.....	1,089,898	1,156,322	1,137,806	+47,908	-18,516
Total, House of Representatives.....	1,089,898	1,156,322	1,137,806	+47,908	-18,516
<b>JOINT ITEMS</b>					
Joint Economic Committee.....	4,276	4,406	4,370	+94	-36
Joint Committee on Taxation.....	8,693	9,105	9,082	+389	-23
Office of the Attending Physician					
Medical supplies, equipment, expenses, and allowances.....	2,520	2,652	2,652	+132	---
Capitol Guide Service and Special Services Office.....	4,098	8,490	8,490	+4,392	---
Statements of Appropriations.....	30	30	30	---	---
Total, Joint items.....	19,617	24,683	24,624	+5,007	-59
<b>CAPITOL POLICE</b>					
Salaries.....	215,281	246,700	220,600	+5,319	-26,100
General expenses.....	31,680	48,383	38,500	+6,820	-9,883
Total, Capitol Police.....	246,961	295,083	259,100	+12,139	-35,983
<b>OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE</b>					
Salaries and expenses.....	3,081	3,418	3,149	+68	-269
<b>CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE</b>					
Salaries and expenses.....	35,096	37,026	36,329	+1,233	-697
<b>ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL</b>					
General administration.....	76,044	103,474	89,413	+13,369	-14,061
Capitol building.....	23,118	31,207	22,396	-722	-8,811
Capitol grounds.....	7,436	9,400	7,806	+370	-1,594
House office buildings.....	59,020	78,941	61,383	+2,363	-17,558
Capitol Power Plant.....	64,632	89,710	87,327	+22,695	-2,383
Offsetting collections.....	-6,534	-8,000	-8,000	-1,466	---
Net subtotal, Capitol Power Plant.....	58,098	81,710	79,327	+21,229	-2,383

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL 2007 (H.R. 5521)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Library buildings and grounds.....	68,075	102,237	36,401	-31,674	-65,836
Capitol police buildings and grounds.....	14,753	20,218	11,621	-3,132	-8,597
Botanic garden.....	7,557	9,264	8,612	+1,055	-652
Capitol Visitor Center					
CVC Project (cost-to-complete).....	41,481	20,600	25,600	-15,881	+5,000
CVC Project Fit Out.....	---	4,534	4,534	+4,534	---
CVC Operations.....	2,277	16,041	16,041	+13,764	---
Total, Capitol Visitor Center.....	43,758	41,175	46,175	+2,417	+5,000
=====					
Total, Architect of the Capitol.....	357,859	477,626	363,134	+5,275	-114,492
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS					
Salaries and expenses.....	391,796	409,294	396,022	+4,226	-13,272
Authority to spend receipts.....	-6,286	-6,350	-6,350	-64	---
Subtotal, Salaries and expenses.....	385,510	402,944	389,672	+4,162	-13,272
Copyright Office, salaries and expenses.....	58,015	59,189	59,044	+1,029	-145
Authority to spend receipts.....	-35,586	-33,984	-34,975	+611	-991
Subtotal, Copyright Office.....	22,429	25,205	24,069	+1,640	-1,136
Congressional Research Service, salaries and expenses.	99,907	104,279	102,462	+2,555	-1,817
Books for the blind and physically handicapped,					
Salaries and expenses.....	53,905	55,703	53,974	+69	-1,729
Subtotal, Library of Congress.....	561,751	588,131	570,177	+8,426	-17,954
Rescission, Chapter 9, Division A, Misc.					
Appropriations Act, 2001.....	-6,858	---	---	+6,858	---
Total, Library of Congress.....	554,893	588,131	570,177	+15,284	-17,954
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE					
Congressional printing and binding.....	87,209	100,285	95,233	+8,024	-5,052
Office of Superintendent of Documents					
Salaries and expenses.....	33,004	43,000	35,287	+2,283	-7,713
Government Printing Office Revolving Fund.....	1,980	8,231	---	-1,980	-8,231
Total, Government Printing Office.....	122,193	151,516	130,520	+8,327	-20,996
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE					
Salaries and expenses.....	484,664	509,355	495,219	+10,555	-14,136
Offsetting collections.....	-7,093	-6,985	-6,985	+108	---
Total, Government Accountability Office.....	477,571	502,370	488,234	+10,663	-14,136
OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER					
Payment to the Open World Leadership Center					
Trust Fund.....	13,860	14,400	13,400	-460	-1,000
STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE					
Stennis Center for Public Service.....	430	430	430	---	---
=====					
Grand total.....	2,921,459	3,251,005	3,026,903	+105,444	-224,102
=====					

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS BILL 2007 (H.R. 5521)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
-----					
RECAPITULATION					
House of Representatives.....	1,089,898	1,156,322	1,137,806	+47,908	-18,516
Joint Items.....	19,617	24,683	24,624	+5,007	-59
Capitol Police.....	246,961	295,083	259,100	+12,139	-35,983
Office of Compliance.....	3,081	3,418	3,149	+68	-269
Congressional Budget Office.....	35,096	37,026	36,329	+1,233	-697
Architect of the Capitol.....	357,859	477,626	363,134	+5,275	-114,492
Library of Congress.....	554,893	588,131	570,177	+15,284	-17,954
Government Printing Office.....	122,193	151,516	130,520	+8,327	-20,996
Government Accountability Office.....	477,571	502,370	488,234	+10,663	-14,136
Open World Leadership Center.....	13,860	14,400	13,400	-460	-1,000
Stennis Center for Public Service.....	430	430	430	---	---
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Grand total.....	2,921,459	3,251,005	3,026,903	+105,444	-224,102
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, my views on this bill are well known, as well as the provisions in it. I think the report speaks for itself.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California, Mr. THOMPSON, for his hard work and leadership on electronic-waste generated by the legislative branch. The Committee shares his concern and has included language in its report to ensure that Member offices are made aware that the House has regulations regarding the disposal of unwanted electronic equipment and for the Chief Administrative Officer to develop user friendly guidelines and procedures for Member offices. In addition, the Committee will request that each legislative branch agency provide information to the Committee regarding its disposal policy for electronic equipment and work to address this issue in conference.

Mr. OBEY. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5521

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, namely:

**TITLE I—LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For salaries and expenses of the House of Representatives, \$1,137,806,000, as follows:

**HOUSE LEADERSHIP OFFICES**

For salaries and expenses, as authorized by law, \$21,092,000, including: Office of the Speaker, \$2,930,000, including \$25,000 for official expenses of the Speaker; Office of the Majority Floor Leader, \$2,213,000, including \$10,000 for official expenses of the Majority Leader; Office of the Minority Floor Leader, \$3,072,000, including \$10,000 for official expenses of the Minority Leader; Office of the Majority Whip, including the Chief Deputy Majority Whip, \$1,921,000, including \$5,000 for official expenses of the Majority Whip; Office of the Minority Whip, including the Chief Deputy Minority Whip, \$1,458,000, including \$5,000 for official expenses of the Minority Whip; Speaker's Office for Legislative Floor Activities, \$491,000; Republican Steering Committee, \$924,000; Republican Conference, \$1,699,000; Republican Policy Committee, \$407,000; Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, \$2,194,000; Democratic Caucus, \$836,000; nine minority employees, \$1,473,000; training and program development—majority, \$290,000; training and program development—minority, \$290,000; Cloakroom Personnel—majority, \$447,000; and Cloakroom Personnel—minority, \$447,000.

**MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES  
INCLUDING MEMBERS' CLERK HIRE, OFFICIAL  
EXPENSES OF MEMBERS, AND OFFICIAL MAIL**

For Members' representational allowances, including Members' clerk hire, official expenses, and official mail, \$557,796,000.

**COMMITTEE EMPLOYEES**

**STANDING COMMITTEES, SPECIAL AND SELECT**

For salaries and expenses of standing committees, special and select, authorized by House resolutions, \$124,851,000: *Provided*, That such amount shall remain available for such salaries and expenses until December 31, 2008.

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

For salaries and expenses of the Committee on Appropriations, \$26,497,000, including studies and examinations of executive agencies and temporary personal services for such committee, to be expended in accordance with section 202(b) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and to be available for reimbursement to agencies for services performed: *Provided*, That such amount shall remain available for such salaries and expenses until December 31, 2008.

**SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES**

For compensation and expenses of officers and employees, as authorized by law, \$159,581,000, including: for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Clerk, including not more than \$13,000, of which not more than \$10,000 is for the Family Room, for official representation and reception expenses, \$21,505,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, including the position of Superintendent of Garages, and including not more than \$3,000 for official representation and reception expenses, \$6,240,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, \$109,301,000, of which \$4,996,000 shall remain available until expended; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Inspector General, \$4,204,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Operations, \$3,997,000, to remain available until expended; for salaries and expenses of the Office of General Counsel, \$959,000; for the Office of the Chaplain, \$164,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Parliamentarian, including the Parliamentarian, \$2,000 for preparing the Digest of Rules, and not more than \$1,000 for official representation and reception expenses, \$1,762,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House, \$2,521,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House, \$7,406,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, \$737,000; for other authorized employees, \$285,000; and for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Historian, \$500,000.

**ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES**

For allowances and expenses as authorized by House resolution or law, \$247,989,000, including: supplies, materials, administrative costs and Federal tort claims, \$4,554,000; official mail for committees, leadership offices, and administrative offices of the House, \$410,000; Government contributions for health, retirement, Social Security, and other applicable employee benefits, \$217,253,000; supplies, materials, and other costs relating to the House portion of expenses for the Capitol Visitor Center, \$3,410,000, to remain available until expended; Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery, \$21,659,000, of which \$5,300,000 shall remain available until expended; and miscellaneous items including purchase, exchange, maintenance, repair and operation of House motor vehicles, interparliamentary receptions, and gratuities to heirs of deceased employees of the House, \$703,000.

**CHILD CARE CENTER**

For salaries and expenses of the House of Representatives Child Care Center, such amounts as are deposited in the account established by section 312(d)(1) of the Legisla-

tive Branch Appropriations Act, 1992 (2 U.S.C. 2112), subject to the level specified in the budget of the Center, as submitted to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS**

SEC. 101. (a) REQUIRING AMOUNTS REMAINING IN MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES TO BE USED FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION OR TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEBT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts appropriated under this Act for "HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—SALARIES AND EXPENSES—MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES" shall be available only for fiscal year 2007. Any amount remaining after all payments are made under such allowances for fiscal year 2007 shall be deposited in the Treasury and used for deficit reduction (or, if there is no Federal budget deficit after all such payments have been made, for reducing the Federal debt, in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate).

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives shall have authority to prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

(c) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term "Member of the House of Representatives" means a Representative in, or a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.

SEC. 102. LUMP-SUM ALLOWANCE.—(a) The aggregate amount otherwise authorized to be appropriated for a fiscal year for the lump-sum allowance for each of the following offices shall be increased as follows:

(1) The allowance for the Office of the Speaker is increased by \$75,000.

(2) The allowance for the Office of the Majority Floor Leader is increased by \$75,000.

(3) The allowance for the Office of the Minority Floor Leader is increased by \$75,000.

(4) The allowance for the Office of the Majority Whip is increased by \$75,000.

(5) The allowance for the Office of the Minority Whip is increased by \$75,000.

(6) The allowance for the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee is increased by \$200,000.

(7) The allowance for the Republican Conference is increased by \$110,000.

(8) The allowance for the Republican Policy Committee is increased by \$90,000.

(b) This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2007 and each succeeding fiscal year.

SEC. 103. ACTING CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER.—(a) In case of the death, resignation, separation from office, or disability of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, the duties of the Chief Administrative Officer may be carried out by a subordinate employee of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (as designated by the Chief Administrative Officer) until a Chief Administrative Officer is appointed or an individual is appointed to act as the Chief Administrative Officer by the Speaker of the House of Representatives under section 208(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 75a-1(a)).

(b)(1) Section 7 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1943 (2 U.S.C. 75a), is repealed.

(2) Section 208(b) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 75a-1(a)) is amended by striking "involved;" and all that follows and inserting "involved."

SEC. 104. CONTRACT FOR EXERCISE FACILITY.—(a) Section 103(a) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108-447; 118 Stat. 3175), is amended by striking "private entity" and inserting "public or private entity".

(b) The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2005.

SEC. 105. DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIP.—(a) If the Architect of the Capitol and the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives agree to permit employees of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol to receive discounted memberships in a private exercise facility which has entered into a contract with the House to provide employees of the House with discounted memberships in the facility, the Architect may use amounts made available in a fiscal year for "General Administration" to make payments under the contract.

(b) This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2007 and each succeeding fiscal year.

SEC. 106. MEMBERSHIP IN EXERCISE FACILITY.—In addition to individuals whose pay is disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, membership in the exercise facility established for employees of the House (as described in section 103(a) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2005) shall be available to such other categories of individuals as may be approved by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 107. MEDIA SUPPORT SERVICES.—(a) The responsibilities of positions under the House Press Gallery, the House Periodical Press Gallery, and the House Radio and Television Correspondents' Gallery shall include providing media support services with respect to the presidential nominating conventions of the national committees of political parties.

(b) The Standing Committee of Correspondents may enter into agreements with national committees of political parties under which the committees and persons authorized by the committees may reimburse employees for necessary expenses incurred in carrying out the responsibilities described in subsection (a) and employees may accept such reimbursement.

(c) The terms and conditions under which employees exercise responsibilities under subsection (a), and the terms and conditions of any agreement entered into under subsection (b), shall be subject to the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

(d) In this section, the terms "national committee" and "political party" have the meaning given such terms in section 301 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431).

#### JOINT ITEMS

For Joint Committees, as follows:

##### JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Economic Committee, \$4,370,000, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

##### JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Committee on Taxation, \$9,082,000, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

For other joint items, as follows:

##### OFFICE OF THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

For medical supplies, equipment, and contingent expenses of the emergency rooms, and for the Attending Physician and his assistants, including: (1) an allowance of \$2,175 per month to the Attending Physician; (2) an allowance of \$725 per month each to four medical officers while on duty in the Office of the Attending Physician; (3) an allowance of \$725 per month to two assistants and \$580 per month each not to exceed 11 assistants on the basis heretofore provided for such assistants; and (4) \$1,920,000 for reimbursement

to the Department of the Navy for expenses incurred for staff and equipment assigned to the Office of the Attending Physician, which shall be advanced and credited to the applicable appropriation or appropriations from which such salaries, allowances, and other expenses are payable and shall be available for all the purposes thereof, \$2,652,000, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

##### CAPITOL GUIDE SERVICE AND SPECIAL SERVICES OFFICE

For salaries and expenses of the Capitol Guide Service and Special Services Office, \$8,490,000, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

##### STATEMENTS OF APPROPRIATIONS

For the preparation, under the direction of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, of the statements for the second session of the 109th Congress, showing appropriations made, indefinite appropriations, and contracts authorized, together with a chronological history of the regular appropriations bills as required by law, \$30,000, to be paid to the persons designated by the chairmen of such committees to supervise the work.

##### CAPITOL POLICE

###### SALARIES

For salaries of employees of the Capitol Police, including overtime, hazardous duty pay differential, and Government contributions for health, retirement, social security, professional liability insurance, and other applicable employee benefits, \$220,600,000, to be disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or his designee.

###### GENERAL EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Capitol Police, including motor vehicles, communications and other equipment, security equipment and installation, uniforms, weapons, supplies, materials, training, medical services, forensic services, stenographic services, personal and professional services, the employee assistance program, the awards program, postage, communication services, travel, travel advances, relocation of instructor and liaison personnel for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and not more than \$5,000 to be expended on the certification of the Chief of the Capitol Police in connection with official representation and reception expenses, \$38,500,000, to be disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or his designee: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the cost of basic training for the Capitol Police at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center for fiscal year 2007 shall be paid by the Secretary of Homeland Security from funds available to the Department of Homeland Security.

##### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 1001. TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—Amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2007 for the Capitol Police may be transferred between the headings "SALARIES" and "GENERAL EXPENSES" upon the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

SEC. 1002. STUDENT LOAN REIMBURSEMENT.—Section 908(c) of the Emergency Supplemental Act, 2002 (2 U.S.C. 1926(c)) is amended by striking "\$40,000" and inserting "\$60,000".

SEC. 1003. ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—During fiscal year 2007 and each succeeding fiscal year, the Chief of the United States Capitol Police may make payments in advance for obligations of the Capitol Police for subscription services if the Chief determines it to be more prompt, efficient, or economical to do so.

##### OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Compliance, as authorized by section 305 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1385), \$3,149,000, of which \$780,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That the Executive Director of the Office of Compliance may, within the limits of available appropriations, dispose of surplus or obsolete personal property by interagency transfer, donation, or discarding: *Provided further*, That not more than \$500 may be expended on the certification of the Executive Director of the Office of Compliance in connection with official representation and reception expenses.

###### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 1101. LUMP-SUM PAYMENTS.—(a) The Executive Director of the Office of Compliance shall have the authority to make lump-sum payments to reward exceptional performance by an employee or a group of employees.

(b) Subsection (a) shall apply with respect to fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2006.

##### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses necessary for operation of the Congressional Budget Office, including not more than \$3,000 to be expended on the certification of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office in connection with official representation and reception expenses, \$36,329,000.

##### ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

###### GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

For salaries for the Architect of the Capitol, and other personal services, at rates of pay provided by law; for surveys and studies in connection with activities under the care of the Architect of the Capitol; for all necessary expenses for the general and administrative support of the operations under the Architect of the Capitol including the Botanic Garden; electrical substations of the Capitol, Senate and House office buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Architect of the Capitol; including furnishings and office equipment; including not more than \$5,000 for official reception and representation expenses, to be expended as the Architect of the Capitol may approve; for purchase or exchange, maintenance, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle, \$89,413,000, of which \$5,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2011.

###### CAPITOL BUILDING

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol, \$22,396,000, of which \$5,965,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2011.

###### CAPITOL GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for care and improvement of grounds surrounding the Capitol, the Senate and House office buildings, and the Capitol Power Plant, \$7,806,000.

###### HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the House office buildings, \$61,383,000, of which \$19,805,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2011.

###### CAPITOL POWER PLANT

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol Power Plant; lighting, heating, power (including the purchase of electrical energy) and water and sewer services for the Capitol, the Capitol Visitor Center, Senate and House office buildings, Library of Congress buildings, and the grounds about the same, Botanic Garden, Senate garage, and air conditioning refrigeration not supplied from



plants in any of such buildings; heating the Government Printing Office and Washington City Post Office, and heating and chilled water for air conditioning for the Supreme Court Building, the Union Station complex, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building and the Folger Shakespeare Library, expenses for which shall be advanced or reimbursed upon request of the Architect of the Capitol and amounts so received shall be deposited into the Treasury to the credit of this appropriation, \$79,327,000, of which \$1,434,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2011: *Provided*, That not more than \$8,000,000 of the funds credited or to be reimbursed to this appropriation as herein provided shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2007.

#### LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for the mechanical and structural maintenance, care and operation of the Library buildings and grounds, \$36,401,000, of which \$12,971,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2011.

#### CAPITOL POLICE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of buildings and grounds of the United States Capitol Police, \$11,621,000, of which \$2,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2011.

#### BOTANIC GARDEN

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Botanic Garden and the nurseries, buildings, grounds, and collections; and purchase and exchange, maintenance, repair, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle; all under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library, \$8,612,000: *Provided*, That this appropriation shall not be available for construction of the National Garden: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, the Architect may obligate and expend such sums as may be necessary for the maintenance, care and operation of the National Garden established under section 307E of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1989 (2 U.S.C. 2146), upon vouchers approved by the Architect or a duly authorized designee.

#### CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

For an additional amount for the Capitol Visitor Center project, \$25,600,000 to remain available until expended, and in addition, \$20,575,000 for the Capitol Visitor Center operation costs of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2011: *Provided*, That the Architect of the Capitol may not obligate any of the funds which are made available for the Capitol Visitor Center project without an obligation plan approved by the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 1201. ROSA PARKS STATUE.—(a) Section 1(a) of Public Law 109-116 (2 U.S.C. 2131a note) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The Joint Committee may authorize the Architect of the Capitol to enter into the agreement required under this subsection on its behalf, under such terms and conditions as the Joint Committee may require.”

(b) The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of Public Law 109-116.

SEC. 1202. STATUTORY POSITIONS.—(a) Section 1203(e) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2003 (2 U.S.C. 1805(e)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(b) Section 108(a) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1991 (2 U.S.C. 1849(a)) is amended by striking “12 positions” and inserting “15 positions”.

(c) The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to pay periods beginning

on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, except that any individual who was appointed to a position described in section 1203(e)(3) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2003 (as in effect prior to the enactment of subsection (a)) who holds that position on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be deemed to have been appointed to a position described in section 108(a) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1991 (as amended by subsection (b)).

SEC. 1203. TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION.—(a) Section 5721(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (G) and (H) as subparagraphs (H) and (I); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following new subparagraph:

“(G) the Architect of the Capitol;”.

(b) Section 521(1)(B) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8241(1)(A)(B)) is amended by striking “(B) through (H)” and inserting “(B) through (I)”.

SEC. 1204. LEASING AUTHORITY.—(a) Section 1102(b) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2004 (2 U.S.C. 1822(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Committee on Rules and Administration” and inserting “Committees on Appropriations and Rules and Administration”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “the House Office Building Commission” and inserting “the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the House Office Building Commission”; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “, for space to be leased for any other entity under subsection (a).”

(b) The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2004.

SEC. 1205. ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—During fiscal year 2007 and each succeeding fiscal year, the Architect of the Capitol may make payments in advance for obligations of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol for subscription services if the Architect determines it to be more prompt, efficient, or economical to do so.

SEC. 1206. (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—There is established in the Office of the Architect of the Capitol the Office of the Inspector General, headed by the Inspector General of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol (hereafter in this section referred to as the “Inspector General”).

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Inspector General shall be appointed by the Architect of the Capitol, in consultation with the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, and shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation and solely on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability in accounting, auditing, financial analysis, law, management analysis, public administration, or investigations.

(2) TERM OF SERVICE.—The Inspector General shall serve for a term of 5 years, and an individual serving as Inspector General may be reappointed for not more than 2 additional terms.

(3) REMOVAL.—The Inspector General may be removed from office prior to the expiration of his term only by the Architect of the Capitol. Upon such removal, the Architect shall promptly communicate the reasons for the removal in writing to the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(4) SALARY.—The Inspector General shall be paid at an annual rate equal to \$1,500 less

than the annual rate of pay in effect for the Architect of the Capitol.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) APPLICABILITY OF DUTIES OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH ESTABLISHMENT.—The Inspector General shall carry out the same duties and responsibilities with respect to the Architect of the Capitol as an Inspector General of an establishment carries out with respect to an establishment under section 4 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 4), under the same terms and conditions which apply under such section.

(2) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—The Inspector General shall prepare and submit semiannual reports summarizing the activities of the Office of the Inspector General in the same manner, and in accordance with the same deadlines, terms, and conditions, as an Inspector General of an establishment under section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 5). For purposes of applying section 5 of such Act to the Inspector General, the Architect of the Capitol shall be considered the head of the establishment.

(3) INVESTIGATIONS OF COMPLAINTS OF EMPLOYEES.—

(A) AUTHORITY.—The Inspector General may receive and investigate complaints or information from an employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol concerning the possible existence of an activity constituting a violation of law, rules, or regulations, or mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to the public health and safety.

(B) NONDISCLOSURE.—The Inspector General shall not, after receipt of a complaint or information from an employee, disclose the identity of the employee without the consent of the employee, unless the Inspector General determines such disclosure is unavoidable during the course of the investigation.

(C) PROHIBITING RETALIATION.—An employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol who has authority to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action, shall not, with respect to such authority, take or threaten to take any action against any employee as a reprisal for making a complaint or disclosing information to the Inspector General, unless the complaint was made or the information disclosed with the knowledge that it was false or with willful disregard for its truth or falsity.

(4) INDEPENDENCE IN CARRYING OUT DUTIES.—Neither the Architect of the Capitol nor any other employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol may prevent or prohibit the Inspector General from carrying out any of the duties or responsibilities assigned to the Inspector General under this section.

(d) POWERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General may exercise the same authorities with respect to the Architect of the Capitol as an Inspector General of an establishment may exercise with respect to an establishment under section 6(a) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 6(a)), other than paragraphs (7) and (8) of such section.

(2) STAFF.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General may appoint and fix the pay of such personnel as the Inspector General considers appropriate. Such personnel may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, regarding appointments in the competitive service, and may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that no personnel

of the Office (other than the Inspector General) may be paid at an annual rate greater than \$500 less than the annual rate of pay of the Inspector General under subsection (b)(4).

(B) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Inspector General may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at rates not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of such title.

(C) INDEPENDENCE IN APPOINTING STAFF.—No individual may carry out any of the duties or responsibilities of the Office unless the individual is appointed by the Inspector General, or provides services procured by the Inspector General, pursuant to this paragraph. Nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to prohibit the Inspector General from entering into a contract or other arrangement for the provision of services under this section.

(D) APPLICABILITY OF ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL PERSONNEL RULES.—None of the regulations governing the appointment and pay of employees of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol shall apply with respect to the appointment and compensation of the personnel of the Office, except to the extent agreed to by the Inspector General. Nothing in the previous sentence may be construed to affect subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(3) EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES.—The Architect of the Capitol shall provide the Office with appropriate and adequate office space, together with such equipment, supplies, and communications facilities and services as may be necessary for the operation of the Office, and shall provide necessary maintenance services for such office space and the equipment and facilities located therein.

(e) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—

(1) TRANSFER.—To the extent that any office or entity in the Office of the Architect of the Capitol prior to the appointment of the first Inspector General under this section carried out any of the duties and responsibilities assigned to the Inspector General under this section, the functions of such office or entity shall be transferred to the Office upon the appointment of the first Inspector General under this section.

(2) NO REDUCTION IN PAY OR BENEFITS.—The transfer of the functions of an office or entity to the Office under paragraph (1) may not result in a reduction in the pay or benefits of any employee of the office or entity, except to the extent required under subsection (d)(2)(A).

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Library of Congress not otherwise provided for, including development and maintenance of the Library's catalogs; custody and custodial care of the Library buildings; special clothing; cleaning, laundering and repair of uniforms; preservation of motion pictures in the custody of the Library; operation and maintenance of the American Folklife Center in the Library; preparation and distribution of catalog records and other publications of the Library; hire or purchase of one passenger motor vehicle; and expenses of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board not properly chargeable to the income of any trust fund held by the Board, \$396,022,000, of which not more than \$6,000,000 shall be derived from collections credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2007, and shall remain available until expended, under the Act of June 28, 1902 (chapter 1301; 32 Stat. 480; 2

U.S.C. 150) and not more than \$350,000 shall be derived from collections during fiscal year 2007 and shall remain available until expended for the development and maintenance of an international legal information database and activities related thereto: *Provided*, That the Library of Congress may not obligate or expend any funds derived from collections under the Act of June 28, 1902, in excess of the amount authorized for obligation or expenditure in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the total amount available for obligation shall be reduced by the amount by which collections are less than \$6,350,000: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, \$14,509,000 shall remain available until expended for the partial acquisition of books, periodicals, newspapers, and all other materials including subscriptions for bibliographic services for the Library, including \$40,000 to be available solely for the purchase, when specifically approved by the Librarian, of special and unique materials for additions to the collections: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, not more than \$12,000 may be expended, on the certification of the Librarian of Congress, in connection with official representation and reception expenses for the Overseas Field Offices: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, \$5,954,000 is available for the digital collections and educational curricula program, of which \$4,010,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, \$600,000 shall remain available until expended, and shall be transferred to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission for carrying out the purposes of Public Law 106-173, of which \$10,000 may be used for official representation and reception expenses of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, \$11,029,000 shall remain available until expended for partial support of the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center.

##### COPYRIGHT OFFICE

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Copyright Office, \$59,044,000, of which not more than \$29,335,000, to remain available until expended, shall be derived from collections credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2007 under section 708(d) of title 17, United States Code: *Provided*, That the Copyright Office may not obligate or expend any funds derived from collections under such section, in excess of the amount authorized for obligation or expenditure in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That not more than \$5,640,000 shall be derived from collections during fiscal year 2007 under sections 111(d)(2), 119(b)(2), 803(e), 1005, and 1316 of such title: *Provided further*, That the total amount available for obligation shall be reduced by the amount by which collections are less than \$34,975,000: *Provided further*, That not more than \$100,000 of the amount appropriated is available for the maintenance of an "International Copyright Institute" in the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress for the purpose of training nationals of developing countries in intellectual property laws and policies: *Provided further*, That not more than \$4,250 may be expended, on the certification of the Librarian of Congress, in connection with official representation and reception expenses for activities of the International Copyright Institute and for copyright delegations, visitors, and seminars: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any provision of chapter 8 of title 17, United States Code, any amounts made available under this heading which are attributable to royalty fees and payments received by the Copyright Office pursuant to

sections 111, 119, and chapter 10 of such title may be used for the costs incurred in the administration of the Copyright Royalty Judges program.

##### CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 203 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 166) and to revise and extend the Annotated Constitution of the United States of America, \$102,462,000: *Provided*, That no part of such amount may be used to pay any salary or expense in connection with any publication, or preparation of material therefor (except the Digest of Public General Bills), to be issued by the Library of Congress unless such publication has obtained prior approval of either the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

##### BOOKS FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses to carry out the Act of March 3, 1931 (chapter 400; 46 Stat. 1487; 2 U.S.C. 135a), \$53,974,000, of which \$15,673,000 shall remain available until expended.

##### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 1301. INCENTIVE AWARDS PROGRAM.—Of the amounts appropriated to the Library of Congress in this Act, not more than \$5,000 may be expended, on the certification of the Librarian of Congress, in connection with official representation and reception expenses for the incentive awards program.

SEC. 1302. REIMBURSABLE AND REVOLVING FUND ACTIVITIES. (a) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2007, the obligatory authority of the Library of Congress for the activities described in subsection (b) may not exceed \$111,078,000.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities referred to in subsection (a) are reimbursable and revolving fund activities that are funded from sources other than appropriations to the Library in appropriations Acts for the legislative branch.

(c) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—During fiscal year 2007, the Librarian of Congress may temporarily transfer funds appropriated in this Act, under the heading "LIBRARY OF CONGRESS" under the subheading "SALARIES AND EXPENSES" to the revolving fund for the FEDLINK Program and the Federal Research Program established under section 103 of the Library of Congress Fiscal Operations Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-481; 2 U.S.C. 182c): *Provided*, That the total amount of such transfers may not exceed \$1,900,000: *Provided further*, That the appropriate revolving fund account shall reimburse the Library for any amounts transferred to it before the period of availability of the Library appropriation expires.

SEC. 1303. UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES.—Funds made available for the Library of Congress under this Act are available for transfer to the Department of State as remittance for a fee charged by the Department for fiscal year 2007 for the maintenance, upgrade, or construction of United States diplomatic facilities only to the extent that the amount of the fee so charged is equal to or less than the unreimbursed value of the services provided during fiscal year 2007 to the Library of Congress on State Department diplomatic facilities.

SEC. 1304. AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—Section 207(e) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1998 (2 U.S.C. 182(e)) is amended to read as follows:

"(e) AUDIT.—The revolving fund shall be subject to audit by the Comptroller General at the Comptroller General's discretion."

SEC. 1305. TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—Amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2007 for the Library of Congress may be transferred between any of the headings for which the amounts are appropriated upon the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives.

#### GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

##### CONGRESSIONAL PRINTING AND BINDING (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For authorized printing and binding for the Congress and the distribution of Congressional information in any format; printing and binding for the Architect of the Capitol; expenses necessary for preparing the semi-monthly and session index to the Congressional Record, as authorized by law (section 902 of title 44, United States Code); printing and binding of Government publications authorized by law to be distributed to Members of Congress; and printing, binding, and distribution of Government publications authorized by law to be distributed without charge to the recipient, \$95,233,000: *Provided*, That this appropriation shall not be available for paper copies of the permanent edition of the Congressional Record for individual Representatives, Resident Commissioners or Delegates authorized under section 906 of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred under the appropriations for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the 2-year limitation under section 718 of title 44, United States Code, none of the funds appropriated or made available under this Act or any other Act for printing and binding and related services provided to Congress under chapter 7 of title 44, United States Code, may be expended to print a document, report, or publication after the 27-month period beginning on the date that such document, report, or publication is authorized by Congress to be printed, unless Congress reauthorizes such printing in accordance with section 718 of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That any unobligated or unexpended balances in this account or accounts for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years may be transferred to the Government Printing Office revolving fund for carrying out the purposes of this heading, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate.

#### OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses of the Office of Superintendent of Documents necessary to provide for the cataloging and indexing of Government publications and their distribution to the public, Members of Congress, other Government agencies, and designated depository and international exchange libraries as authorized by law, \$35,287,000: *Provided*, That amounts of not more than \$2,000,000 from current year appropriations are authorized for producing and disseminating Congressional serial sets and other related publications for fiscal years 2005 and 2006 to depository and other designated libraries: *Provided further*, That any unobligated or unexpended balances in this account or accounts for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years may be transferred to the Government Printing Office revolving fund for carrying out the purposes of this heading, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate.

#### GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE REVOLVING FUND

The Government Printing Office may make such expenditures, within the limits of

funds available and in accord with the law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 9104 of title 31, United States Code, as may be necessary in carrying out the programs and purposes set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for the Government Printing Office revolving fund: *Provided*, That not more than \$5,000 may be expended on the certification of the Public Printer in connection with official representation and reception expenses: *Provided further*, That the revolving fund shall be available for the hire or purchase of not more than 12 passenger motor vehicles: *Provided further*, That expenditures in connection with travel expenses of the advisory councils to the Public Printer shall be deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the revolving fund shall be available for temporary or intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title: *Provided further*, That the revolving fund and the funds provided under the headings "OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS" and "SALARIES AND EXPENSES" together may not be available for the full-time equivalent employment of more than 2,621 workyears (or such other number of workyears as the Public Printer may request, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate): *Provided further*, That activities financed through the revolving fund may provide information in any format: *Provided further*, That not more than \$10,000 may be expended from the revolving fund in support of the activities of the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission established by Public Law 107-202.

#### GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Government Accountability Office, including not more than \$12,500 to be expended on the certification of the Comptroller General of the United States in connection with official representation and reception expenses; temporary or intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of such title; hire of one passenger motor vehicle; advance payments in foreign countries in accordance with section 3324 of title 31, United States Code; benefits comparable to those payable under sections 901(5), (6), and (8) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4081(5), (6), and (8)); and under regulations prescribed by the Comptroller General of the United States, rental of living quarters in foreign countries, \$488,234,000: *Provided*, That not more than \$4,980,000 of payments received under section 782 of title 31, United States Code, shall be available for use in fiscal year 2007: *Provided further*, That not more than \$2,005,000 of reimbursements received under section 9105 of title 31, United States Code, shall be available for use in fiscal year 2007: *Provided further*, That this appropriation and appropriations for administrative expenses of any other department or agency which is a member of the National Intergovernmental Audit Forum or a Regional Intergovernmental Audit Forum shall be available to finance an appropriate share of either Forum's costs as determined by the respective Forum, including necessary travel expenses of non-Federal participants: *Provided further*, That payments hereunder to the Forum may

be credited as reimbursements to any appropriation from which costs involved are initially financed.

#### OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER TRUST FUND

For a payment to the Open World Leadership Center Trust Fund for financing activities of the Open World Leadership Center under section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), \$13,400,000.

#### JOHN C. STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

For payment to the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Development Trust Fund established under section 116 of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2 U.S.C. 1105), \$430,000.

#### TITLE II—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES.—No part of the funds appropriated in this Act shall be used for the maintenance or care of private vehicles, except for emergency assistance and cleaning as may be provided under regulations relating to parking facilities for the House of Representatives issued by the Committee on House Administration and for the Senate issued by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SEC. 202. FISCAL YEAR LIMITATION.—No part of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond fiscal year 2007 unless expressly so provided in this Act.

SEC. 203. RATES OF COMPENSATION AND DESIGNATION.—Whenever in this Act any office or position not specifically established by the Legislative Pay Act of 1929 (46 Stat. 32 et seq.) is appropriated for or the rate of compensation or designation of any office or position appropriated for is different from that specifically established by such Act, the rate of compensation and the designation in this Act shall be the permanent law with respect thereto: *Provided*, That the provisions in this Act for the various items of official expenses of Members, officers, and committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, and clerk hire for Senators and Members of the House of Representatives shall be the permanent law with respect thereto.

SEC. 204. CONSULTING SERVICES.—The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract, under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued under existing law.

SEC. 205. AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.—Such sums as may be necessary are appropriated to the account described in subsection (a) of section 415 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1415(a)) to pay awards and settlements as authorized under such subsection.

SEC. 206. COSTS OF LBFMC.—Amounts available for administrative expenses of any legislative branch entity which participates in the Legislative Branch Financial Managers Council (LBFMC) established by charter on March 26, 1996, shall be available to finance an appropriate share of LBFMC costs as determined by the LBFMC, except that the total LBFMC costs to be shared among all participating legislative branch entities (in such allocations among the entities as the entities may determine) may not exceed \$2,000.

SEC. 207. LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE.—The Architect of the Capitol, in consultation with the District of Columbia, is authorized

to maintain and improve the landscape features, excluding streets and sidewalks, in the irregular shaped grassy areas bounded by Washington Avenue, SW on the northeast, Second Street SW on the west, Square 582 on the south, and the beginning of the I-395 tunnel on the southeast.

SEC. 208. LIMITATION ON TRANSFERS.—None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriation Act.

SEC. 209. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to establish or operate a smoking area in the cafeteria and public dining areas of the Rayburn House Office Building.

SEC. 210. For fiscal year 2007 only, all authorities previously exercised by the Architect of the Capitol, including but not limited to the execution and supervision of contracts; and the hiring, supervising, training, and compensation of employees, shall be vested in the Comptroller General of the United States or his designee: *Provided*, That this delegation of authority shall terminate with the confirmation of a new Architect of the Capitol.

This Act may be cited as the "Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2007".

The Acting CHAIRMAN. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in House Report 109-487. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 109-487.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 109-487.

□ 1300

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 109-487.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 109-487.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. BAIRD

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 4 offered by Mr. BAIRD:

Page 13, line 13, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(increased by \$2,400,000)".

Page 36, line 3, insert after the dollar amount the following: "(decreased by \$2,400,000)".

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 849, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is my understanding that my respective chairman and ranking member have some concerns about the amendment, and I intend to withdraw it, therefore. However, I would like to speak to it briefly, if I may.

Many of us who have served here for a number of years still find ourselves, unfortunately, lost when we travel in the basement of this building or some of the other office buildings. That is a frustrating and sometimes humorous experience for us under normal circumstances, but in an emergency situation it could be a matter of life and death.

I am aware that there are firms that specialize in the electronic mapping of facilities precisely such as this for the purpose of helping first responders respond more quickly and ably in the event of an emergency. Indeed, schools throughout my State have been mapped in such a way, as is our capital complex in Washington State today.

What I am asking for with this amendment is the diversion of \$2.4 million that is currently allocated towards the House Printing Office in order that the Architect of the Capitol could invest in an electronic mapping system to provide this function.

Let me describe briefly what can happen with these electronic mapping systems. Essentially, rather than relying on the Architect of the Capitol to have a bunch of hard copy blueprints that would be presumably folded out in a time of crisis, the entire complex would be mapped in an electronic form such that the information about the complex could be downloaded and available on laptops, PDAs or other electronic means. This could include response plans, hazardous materials locations, and paths of egress or ingress.

Imagine had Flight 93 hit this Capitol, the chaos and the smoke and the toxic fumes that would have engulfed this building, we could easily have had Members of Congress, staff, members of the public trapped in unaccessible locations that the first responders would not even know how to reach.

What we are asking for today is that we invest in a system that will make it possible for our first responders, our Capitol Police, firefighters from on grounds or off grounds to respond promptly, efficiently to save lives and to restore order as needed.

This is a relatively small investment for what could one day be a profound and important life-saving measure. I would encourage my good friends, the chairman and ranking member, to work with me in the future on this measure.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BAIRD. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, Mr. OBEY and I have both understood for years that if you wander through the Rayburn Building and do not get lost, you have been here too long. With that, I think you have a very good proposal.

Mr. BAIRD. I thank the gentleman, and hope that we might be able to work on this in the future.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 109-487.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 109-487.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 109-487.

The CHAIRMAN. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) having assumed the chair, Mr. LINDER, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5521) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 849, he reported the bill back to the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

□ 1315

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

#### EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS AND SUPPORT FOR GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (GO-STEM) PROGRAMS

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 421) expressing the sense of Congress and support for Greater Opportunities for Science, Technology, Engineering,

and Mathematics (GO-STEM) programs, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 421

Whereas in October 2005, the Government Accountability Office released a study on Federal science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs and concluded that the Federal Government funds 207 education-related STEM programs across 13 separate Federal agencies;

Whereas in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171), the Congress established the Academic Competitiveness Council in order to identify all Federal education programs with a mathematics and science focus;

Whereas the Academic Competitiveness Council is chaired by the Secretary of Education and brings together officials from across the Federal Government;

Whereas the Academic Competitiveness Council is charged with determining the effectiveness of each program and identifying areas of overlap or duplication; and

Whereas the Academic Competitiveness Council has up to one year after February 2006 to release its report and will recommend ways to efficiently integrate and coordinate the programs: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—*

(1) mathematics and science education programs across Federal agencies should be better coordinated;

(2) there should be minimal duplication among these programs and consistent standards of evaluation;

(3) the Department of Education should be commended for its rapid response in creating the Academic Competitiveness Council; and

(4) the recommendations of the Academic Competitiveness Council should be closely examined when making decisions about Federal funding for mathematics and science education programs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 421.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I initially want to start and thank the chairman and staff of the Education and Workforce Committee, and Members on both sides, co-sponsors on both sides of the aisle here, for their support and their assistance as we bring this important resolution forward.

A couple of quotes from the Hart-Rudman Commission report in 2001: "The harsh fact is that the United States need for the highest quality human capital in science, mathematics and engineering is not being met. Another reason for the growing deficit in

high-quality human capital is that the American kindergarten through 12th grade education system is not performing as well as it should."

And then just a year and a half ago, the former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich said, "The biggest challenge for the United States domestically is to fundamentally, profoundly overhaul math and science education. This is a real crisis."

Mr. Speaker, in order to sustain America's economic growth and national security, United States must remain at the cutting edge of innovation and ingenuity in such fields as science, technology, engineering and mathematics, often referred to as STEM. And staying at the cutting edge will only happen by putting the right workforce in place for the 21st century.

Creating the 21st century workforce begins by answering the domestic demand for occupations like scientists and engineers. In fact, the demand for scientists and engineers is expected to increase at four times the rate of all other occupations over the next decade.

Already the Federal Government makes a sizeable investment to promote STEM-related occupations through education initiatives. But if the Federal Government is going to continue to have such a role, it makes sense to take a look at the current Federal programs, the total investment of those programs and gauge the effectiveness of those programs.

In October 2005, the Government Accountability Office released a study on Federal STEM programs and concluded the Federal Government funds 207 education programs across 13 separate Federal agencies. In total, those programs cost \$2.8 billion in fiscal year 2004. However, only 51 of the 207 programs received \$10 million or more, meaning that most received not a substantial investment.

In the study, the GAO went on to conclude that before adopting any changes, it is important to know the extent to which existing STEM education programs are appropriately targeted and making the best use of available Federal resources.

Based upon the recommendations of the GAO, Congress went on to establish the Academic Competitiveness Council in order to identify all Federal education programs with a math and science focus. The primary duties of the council are to determine the effectiveness of each program and identify areas of overlap or duplication.

Now, the rudimentary evidence points to a system that is fragmented and in need of much better coordination. Congress is eagerly anticipating the report of the Academic Competitiveness Council to see how the larger facts bear out, and to that end the Department of Education and other Federal agencies should be commended for their rapid response in creating the council and their aggressiveness in finding the truth.

But as Congress examines the investments made on math and science education, the effort also must focus on duplication and standards of evaluation. Federal resources are precious, and it is the responsibility of Congress to ensure that money is not being thrown at repetitive or duplicative efforts and that these programs can be properly monitored for their effectiveness.

Instead of spreading money around on programs that span the Federal Government and lack an overall coherent plan, Congress must direct the money to the best possible use in a consistent manner. The recommendations of the Academic Competitiveness Council should be closely watched and bring semblance to math and science education programs. This resolution would move us in that direction.

So I urge my colleagues to adopt this resolution. Now is the time to affirm the importance of such an investment, but also to properly evaluate the recommendations produced by the council. As America looks to sustain its economic vitality and national security, investments in the field of science, technology, engineering and math are too important to leave fragmented and without proper guidance.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, we rise in support of this legislation. We think that it is important that we do get a handle on those programs that the Federal Government currently supports in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Late last year, the Democratic Caucus introduced an innovation agenda, and that innovation agenda was designed to make sure that America would retain its competitiveness and America would be able to go forward into this century as a leader in math, science and engineering and a leader in innovation, a place that America has held for the last 50 years. We have held that position in the world because of an investment that was made by President Kennedy to go to the Moon and to return safely, and the infrastructure that was built up by that decision. President Kennedy understood it was more than just a moon shot. It was about building an infrastructure in math, science and engineering for this country for the future. And that decision led to the greatest public-private partnership in the history of the world and created an infrastructure today that we continue to live off of and that has driven this economy for that same period of time.

□ 1330

The question is whether or not we need to renew that investment. Clearly those people who are participating in this economy at the highest levels, on the cutting edge, those who are creating new start-ups, who have created some of the great companies of the

world in high technology, biotech and engineering, tell us that it is absolutely imperative that America make this effort.

They have made it also clear to us that the foundation of this is the American education system; that not only must we fully fund No Child Left Behind, as the American Electronics Association called for, but we have to make a new commitment to graduate studies, we have to make a new commitment to the teachers of math, science and engineering at all levels, and we have got to make a new commitment to research and development.

So this resolution is quite timely, because it is important that we understand not only why these programs are on the books, the purposes for which they are created, but do they still work in today's environment, should they be modified, should they be merged, should they be given new purposes.

We know that the National Science Foundation outside of the Department of Education has created some of the most effective programs for young people to become excited about the physical sciences and the life sciences and to understand the world around them, and have engaged students in a way that they are unlikely to be engaged with the traditional textbook approach to those sciences.

In my own State of California, we now see the University of California initiating a new program where those students of math, science and engineering will be able to concurrently achieve a teaching credential, so not only will they be fully skilled in the core subject matters of engineering and math and science, but they will also, if they decide to go into the teaching field, be fully qualified to teach those subject matters and create that excitement that we talk about so much, so that young people will truly see the value and the excitement of studying and entering careers that deeply involve math, science and engineering.

If we fail to do this, if we fail to do more than this resolution, if the national science programs continue to come under budget pressure, then the problem will be that we can lose that leadership in fields of innovation where America has been so terribly strong.

We now see strategic investments being made in the educational facilities, in the research facilities, all along the Asian Rim, by India, by China, by Indonesia, by Korea, in the field of telecommunications and the field of technology and the field of biosciences; and it is terribly important for our economy here at home, for the jobs of the future and for our leadership in the world and a matter of our national security, certainly, in the technology fields. The only way we are going to be able to do that, according to those people who are betting their companies, betting their shareholders' money, betting borrowed money and the venture capitalists staking their future on it, is to engage in a full and comprehensive

program for competitiveness and innovation.

In the Democratic proposal, the challenge that we have laid down to this Congress, that challenge is to create a new generation of innovators, and this legislation speaks to this because it speaks to the education programs that will be available and the effectiveness of those programs for math, science and engineering.

We also speak to that by making sure that there are graduate fellowships, much as we did again in the effort to reach the Moon in the Kennedy administration where 28,000 fellowships were given. Those individuals finished their graduate studies early and became part of that great foundation of American ingenuity and competitiveness.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I, too, want to support this resolution and draw attention to the needs that we have in the areas of science, engineering and math for the education establishments in this country. We dramatically need to improve the number of highly qualified teachers with core competencies in these fields; we dramatically need to increase the number of young people who are excited by this; and we dramatically need to increase the number of young people who want to choose this as a career, as a profession, as a place of excitement and innovation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member for his support, and yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON), the chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution to recognize the ever-increasing importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs, to which we have given the acronym STEM. As you know, this is an issue on which the Education and the Workforce Committee has provided considerable leadership over the last several years, particularly during the No Child Left Behind era and through our recent efforts to strengthen the Higher Education Act.

Right now, our committee is immersed in a series of hearings on the current state and future prospects of our Nation's STEM programs. At these hearings, we have heard from Secretary of Labor Chao and Secretary of Education Spellings, who discussed the Bush administration's view on the STEM programs. We have also heard from a variety of other Federal officials, as well as educators and businessmen and women from across the Nation.

A common theme throughout their testimony was this: In order to determine where to go next with regard to Federal involvement in STEM programs, it is best to gain a better understanding of where we already are.

Congress has taken steps to determine just that. Last fall, the Govern-

ment Accountability Office issued a report that quantified the many Federal programs established to increase the number of students pursuing science, technology, engineering and math degrees. In fiscal year 2004 alone, we spent about \$2.8 billion on these programs, and the GAO has recommended that before creating new Federal math and science programs, we should know which existing programs are appropriately targeted and making the best use of Federal resources.

Following that logic, earlier this year, as part of the Deficit Reduction Act, Congress established an Academic Competitiveness Council designed to identify and review the more than 200 programs within the 13 separate Federal agencies with a math or science focus. The council will evaluate the effectiveness of the programs, determine areas of duplication and recommend ways in which to integrate and coordinate them. Its activities recently began in earnest, and a final report must be submitted to Congress by February 2007.

Mr. Speaker, Congress, the Federal Government and our Nation's academic and business communities must gain a better understanding of what programs already exist to improve STEM education, how effective these programs are and, most importantly of all, what we can do to improve them.

Simply put, for our Nation to remain competitive in a rapidly changing global marketplace, we must sharpen our focus in STEM programs. I applaud our efforts to improve them, and I support this resolution.

I thank my colleague from Georgia, Dr. PRICE, for bringing it to the floor.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding me time. I also want to commend Representative PRICE for his introduction of this legislation, and I am pleased to join with him, Chairman McKEON and Ranking Member MILLER as we express support for H. Con. Res. 421.

Supporting mathematics and science in education is crucial to national prosperity. The United States workforce is dramatically changing, and the demand for highly skilled jobs is increasing. In the last 10 years, employment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, STEM fields, as we call them, have increased by an estimated 23 percent, particularly in mathematics and in computer science. This growth will only continue by 2020. Fifteen million new jobs that require college-educated and highly skilled workers will be created.

However, and unfortunately, we have seen a recent drop in students' educational interest in STEM-related fields. In 2004, only 27 percent of degrees awarded were in STEM fields, compared to 32 percent of degrees in



1995. We need to ensure that our students are adequately prepared for the changing economy, and supporting quality programs in STEM-related fields is essential to reach this goal.

The goals of the Academic Competitiveness Council are to evaluate the effectiveness of each STEM-related program across the government, identify areas of overlap and recommend ways to efficiently integrate and coordinate in the future.

It is important that the Academic Competitiveness Council and this Congress continue to focus on a high-quality investment in STEM training. Further, it is important that we work to increase the participation of minority groups and women, who are seriously underrepresented in STEM fields. Inclusion of women and underrepresented minorities in STEM will help correct the historical employment inequities that have existed in our country and help supply the American economy with the STEM expertise that the country needs to innovate and remain competitive.

Just last month, we heard from the administration that the creation and operation of the Academic Competitiveness Council is under way and that they are working to make concrete recommendations. Congress has a responsibility to thoughtfully consider these recommendations, accepting those that are reasonable and rejecting recommendations that could undermine or undercut progress.

It is incumbent upon us to ensure that the needs met by current activities continue to be addressed, and even strengthened where needed. We must not eliminate critical and crucially needed activities solely in the name of consolidation.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time on this legislation. Again, I want to thank Mr. PRICE and Mr. MCKEON for bringing this bill to the floor, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to once again reiterate my thanks to the ranking member and to Mr. DAVIS for their support and for the support of all the cosponsors on both sides of the aisle who understand and appreciate the importance of this resolution. I am so pleased to stand with both Republicans and Democrats who appreciate that Federal resources are precious, but also that they are finite. It is our responsibility, Congress' responsibility, to provide the oversight and to be certain that hard-earned taxpayer money is wisely spent.

This resolution is truly a win-win. It allows Congress to be certain that the money is being spent effectively, and it

reiterates our appreciation and support for increasing the interests in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following correspondence.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE  
WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, June 6, 2006.

Hon. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT,  
Chairman, Committee on Science, Rayburn  
House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOEHLERT: Thank you for your recent letter regarding the consideration of H. Con. Res. 421, expressing support for Greater Opportunities for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics programs. I appreciate your efforts to improve the text of the resolution. When the bill is considered on the floor, the changes you have suggested will be included in a manager's amendment.

I also appreciate your agreement to not request a sequential referral and your willingness to forgo consideration of H. Con. Res. 421 by your committee. I agree that waiving consideration of H. Con. Res. 421 in no way diminishes or alters the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Science. I will include your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during the bill's consideration on the House floor.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
Washington, DC, June 6, 2006.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,  
Chairman, Committee on Education and the  
Workforce, Rayburn House Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Science Committee in matters being considered in H. Con. Res. 421, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress and support for Greater Opportunities for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (GO-STEM) programs. This measure deals with matters in the jurisdiction of the Science Committee, including the education programs of the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Energy.

I appreciate your willingness to work with me to satisfy my concerns about the language in H. Con. Res. 421 by modifying language in the measure so that we are not prejudging any recommendations of the Academic Competitiveness Council. The Science Committee acknowledges the importance of H. Con. Res. 421 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, pursuant to our agreement to modify the language of the measure, I agree not to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forgo a sequential referral waives, reduces or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Science Committee. I would appreciate it if you would include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record when the measure is considered on the House Floor.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

SHERWOOD BOEHLERT,  
Chairman.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to comment positively on H. Con. Res. 421, but also to express some concerns about it. I commend Representative TOM PRICE for his interest in supporting Greater Opportunities for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math—collectively, STEM—programs and I thank him for including a change in the manager's amendment. STEM education is extremely important to our Nation, because our economic and national security rely on technical and innovative expertise in these fields. However, I am concerned that this resolution, despite the change in the manager's amendment, still gives premature support to the Academic Competitiveness Council's—ACC—recommendations, which are not due until February 2007.

The impetus for the ACC sprang from a 2005 Government Accountability Office study on Federal STEM programs. It is my understanding that Federal agencies with STEM programs have a seat at the ACC table. However, I am concerned that not all agencies have an equal appreciation or understanding of the importance of STEM education in improving our national competitiveness and security.

The National Science Foundation—NSF—has a proven track record of expertise and experience in STEM programs. We all know that NSF grants have led to truly revolutionary discoveries and technical advances. NSF-funded researchers have won more than 160 Nobel Prizes, and these pioneers have included the scientists or teams that discovered many of the fundamental particles of matter and decoded the genetics of viruses. But many do not know that another essential element in NSF's mission is support for science and engineering education, from pre-K through graduate school and beyond. The research that the NSF funds is thoroughly integrated with education to help ensure that there will always be plenty of skilled people available to work in new and emerging scientific, engineering and technological fields, and plenty of capable teachers to educate the next generation. Since the NSF has been a leader in STEM education for more than 50 years and has established excellent evaluations for all of its programs, the ACC should give very strong recognition to the role NSF and its education programs play in promoting our economic competitiveness and national security, and they should build upon the strengths of the NSF. The treasure trove of knowledge the foundation represents should not be overlooked, but, in fact, should be used as a base for the ACC recommendations.

Specifically, I am concerned that the GO-STEM resolution calls for "minimal duplication among [STEM] programs" without defining what this means and also goes further than the established goals for the ACC that are set out in the Deficit Reduction Act. For years, I have been promoting the Math and Science Partnership programs at the Department of Education—ED—and the National Science



Foundation. Unfortunately, because both agency's programs have the same name, some have mistakenly thought of these programs as equivalent, even though they are in name only, and duplicative, even though they most definitely are not. I am working on legislation to change the name of the NSF program to help avoid future confusion. Among other differences, the NSF program is designed to provide rigorous, scientifically based research on what works in STEM teacher professional development whereas ED's program is designed to implement these ideas on the State level. A wide array of teachers, scientists and education researchers agree that there is much research needed in the areas addressed by the NSF Math and Science Partnership program, yet the President's budget has called for eliminating new research in the NSF program.

Since there has been significant confusion about different STEM programs, I am pleased that the ACC will focus on coordination and strengthening the Federal STEM endeavor. There is a plethora of STEM education programs across many different Federal agencies. The goal of the GO-STEM resolution—to better coordinate Federal STEM education efforts—is needed and is very admirable. However, I do not want to put the cart before the horse, and prefer that Congress carefully consider whatever recommendations the ACC puts forth before adopting them.

Additionally, the GO-STEM resolution calls for "consistent standards of evaluation." While this is a laudable goal, apples cannot be compared to oranges. In particular, I am concerned that new programs could receive failing grades since they have not had time to demonstrate results. Will the new SMART grants, a tremendous tool for bolstering the STEM education pipeline, receive a "results not demonstrated" designation as other new programs do in PART reviews? Furthermore, we should expect very different outcomes from programs that focus on student learning compared to programs that focus on graduate-level research in the physical sciences. The tools used to define "effective" are extremely critical. I am uncertain what evaluative methodology the ACC will adopt to define "effective," and, therefore, am very reluctant to give premature support to the ACC's recommendations.

I urge that Members pay very close attention to the ACC's recommendations. But please, think critically about the evaluative methodology the ACC uses in developing its recommendations, and recognize and build upon the existing expertise of agencies such as the National Science Foundation. Also, think very hard about how our actions will affect our economic competitiveness and national security before considering eliminating any STEM-related programs.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 421, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the con-

current resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

# MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2803) to amend the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 to improve the safety of mines and mining.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2803

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006" or the "MINER Act".

## SEC. 2. EMERGENCY RESPONSE.

Section 316 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 876) is amended—

(1) in the section heading by adding at the end the following: "AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS";

(2) by striking "Telephone" and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—Telephone"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) ACCIDENT PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each underground coal mine operator shall carry out on a continuing basis a program to improve accident preparedness and response at each mine.

"(2) RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS PLAN.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006, each underground coal mine operator shall develop and adopt a written accident response plan that complies with this subsection with respect to each mine of the operator, and periodically update such plans to reflect changes in operations in the mine, advances in technology, or other relevant considerations. Each such operator shall make the accident response plan available to the miners and the miners' representatives.

"(B) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—An accident response plan under subparagraph (A) shall—

"(i) provide for the evacuation of all individuals endangered by an emergency; and

"(ii) provide for the maintenance of individuals trapped underground in the event that miners are not able to evacuate the mine.

"(C) PLAN APPROVAL.—The accident response plan under subparagraph (A) shall be subject to review and approval by the Secretary. In determining whether to approve a particular plan the Secretary shall take into consideration all comments submitted by miners or their representatives. Approved plans shall—

"(i) afford miners a level of safety protection at least consistent with the existing standards, including standards mandated by law and regulation;

"(ii) reflect the most recent credible scientific research;

"(iii) be technologically feasible, make use of current commercially available technology, and account for the specific physical characteristics of the mine; and

"(iv) reflect the improvements in mine safety gained from experience under this Act and other worker safety and health laws.

"(D) PLAN REVIEW.—The accident response plan under subparagraph (A) shall be reviewed periodically, but at least every 6

months, by the Secretary. In such periodic reviews, the Secretary shall consider all comments submitted by miners or miners' representatives and intervening advancements in science and technology that could be implemented to enhance miners' ability to evacuate or otherwise survive in an emergency.

"(E) PLAN CONTENT-GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—To be approved under subparagraph (C), an accident response plan shall include the following:

"(i) POST-ACCIDENT COMMUNICATIONS.—The plan shall provide for a redundant means of communication with the surface for persons underground, such as secondary telephone or equivalent two-way communication.

"(ii) POST-ACCIDENT TRACKING.—Consistent with commercially available technology and with the physical constraints, if any, of the mine, the plan shall provide for above ground personnel to determine the current, or immediately pre-accident, location of all underground personnel. Any system so utilized shall be functional, reliable, and calculated to remain serviceable in a post-accident setting.

"(iii) POST-ACCIDENT BREATHABLE AIR.—The plan shall provide for—

"(I) emergency supplies of breathable air for individuals trapped underground sufficient to maintain such individuals for a sustained period of time;

"(II) in addition to the 2 hours of breathable air per miner required by law under the emergency temporary standard as of the day before the date of enactment of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006, caches of self-rescuers providing in the aggregate not less than 2 hours per miner to be kept in escapeways from the deepest work area to the surface at a distance of no further than an average miner could walk in 30 minutes;

"(III) a maintenance schedule for checking the reliability of self rescuers, retiring older self-rescuers first, and introducing new self-rescuer technology, such as units with interchangeable air or oxygen cylinders not requiring doffing to replenish airflow and units with supplies of greater than 60 minutes, as they are approved by the Administration and become available on the market; and

"(IV) training for each miner in proper procedures for donning self-rescuers, switching from one unit to another, and ensuring a proper fit.

"(iv) POST-ACCIDENT LIFELINES.—The plan shall provide for the use of flame-resistant directional lifelines or equivalent systems in escapeways to enable evacuation. The flame-resistance requirement of this clause shall apply upon the replacement of existing lifelines, or, in the case of lifelines in working sections, upon the earlier of the replacement of such lifelines or 3 years after the date of enactment of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006.

"(v) TRAINING.—The plan shall provide a training program for emergency procedures described in the plan which will not diminish the requirements for mandatory health and safety training currently required under section 115.

"(vi) LOCAL COORDINATION.—The plan shall set out procedures for coordination and communication between the operator, mine rescue teams, and local emergency response personnel and make provisions for familiarizing local rescue personnel with surface functions that may be required in the course of mine rescue work.

"(F) PLAN CONTENT-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the content requirements contained in subparagraph (E), and subject to the considerations contained in subparagraph (C), the Secretary

may make additional plan requirements with respect to any of the content matters.

“(ii) POST ACCIDENT COMMUNICATIONS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006, a plan shall, to be approved, provide for post accident communication between underground and surface personnel via a wireless two-way medium, and provide for an electronic tracking system permitting surface personnel to determine the location of any persons trapped underground or set forth within the plan the reasons such provisions can not be adopted. Where such plan sets forth the reasons such provisions can not be adopted, the plan shall also set forth the operator's alternative means of compliance. Such alternative shall approximate, as closely as possible, the degree of functional utility and safety protection provided by the wireless two-way medium and tracking system referred to in this subpart.

“(G) PLAN DISPUTE RESOLUTION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Any dispute between the Secretary and an operator with respect to the content of the operator's plan or any refusal by the Secretary to approve such a plan shall be resolved on an expedited basis.

“(ii) DISPUTES.—In the event of a dispute or refusal described in clause (i), the Secretary shall issue a citation which shall be immediately referred to a Commission Administrative Law Judge. The Secretary and the operator shall submit all relevant material regarding the dispute to the Administrative Law Judge within 15 days of the date of the referral. The Administrative Law Judge shall render his or her decision with respect to the plan content dispute within 15 days of the receipt of the submission.

“(iii) FURTHER APPEALS.—A party adversely affected by a decision under clause (ii) may pursue all further available appeal rights with respect to the citation involved, except that inclusion of the disputed provision in the plan will not be limited by such appeal unless such relief is requested by the operator and permitted by the Administrative Law Judge.

“(H) MAINTAINING PROTECTIONS FOR MINERS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, nothing in this section, and no response and preparedness plan developed under this section, shall be approved if it reduces the protection afforded miners by an existing mandatory health or safety standard.”

### SEC. 3. INCIDENT COMMAND AND CONTROL.

Title I of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 811 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “SEC. 116. LIMITATION ON CERTAIN LIABILITY FOR RESCUE OPERATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—No person shall bring an action against any covered individual or his or her regular employer for property damage or an injury (or death) sustained as a result of carrying out activities relating to mine accident rescue or recovery operations. This subsection shall not apply where the action that is alleged to result in the property damages or injury (or death) was the result of gross negligence, reckless conduct, or illegal conduct or, where the regular employer (as such term is used in this Act) is the operator of the mine at which the rescue activity takes place. Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt State workers' compensation laws.

“(b) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of subsection (a), the term ‘covered individual’ means an individual—

“(1) who is a member of a mine rescue team or who is otherwise a volunteer with respect to a mine accident; and

“(2) who is carrying out activities relating to mine accident rescue or recovery operations.

“(c) REGULAR EMPLOYER.—For purposes of subsection (a), the term ‘regular employer’ means the entity that is the covered employee's legal or statutory employer pursuant to applicable State law.”

### SEC. 4. MINE RESCUE TEAMS.

Section 115(e) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 825(e)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” after the subsection designation; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2)(A) The Secretary shall issue regulations with regard to mine rescue teams which shall be finalized and in effect not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006.

“(B) Such regulations shall provide for the following:

“(i) That such regulations shall not be construed to waive operator training requirements applicable to existing mine rescue teams.

“(ii) That the Mine Safety and Health Administration shall establish, and update every 5 years thereafter, criteria to certify the qualifications of mine rescue teams.

“(iii)(I) That the operator of each underground coal mine with more than 36 employees—

“(aa) have an employee knowledgeable in mine emergency response who is employed at the mine on each shift at each underground mine; and

“(bb) make available two certified mine rescue teams whose members—

“(AA) are familiar with the operations of such coal mine;

“(BB) participate at least annually in two local mine rescue contests;

“(CC) participate at least annually in mine rescue training at the underground coal mine covered by the mine rescue team; and

“(DD) are available at the mine within one hour ground travel time from the mine rescue station.

“(II)(aa) For the purpose of complying with subclause (I), an operator shall employ one team that is either an individual mine site mine rescue team or a composite team as provided for in item (bb)(BB).

“(bb) The following options may be used by an operator to comply with the requirements of item (aa):

“(AA) An individual mine-site mine rescue team.

“(BB) A multi-employer composite team that is made up of team members who are knowledgeable about the operations and ventilation of the covered mines and who train on a semi-annual basis at the covered underground coal mine—

“(aaa) which provides coverage for multiple operators that have team members which include at least two active employees from each of the covered mines;

“(bbb) which provides coverage for multiple mines owned by the same operator which members include at least two active employees from each mine; or

“(ccc) which is a State-sponsored mine rescue team comprised of at least two active employees from each of the covered mines.

“(CC) A commercial mine rescue team provided by contract through a third-party vendor or mine rescue team provided by another coal company, if such team—

“(aaa) trains on a quarterly basis at covered underground coal mines;

“(bbb) is knowledgeable about the operations and ventilation of the covered mines; and

“(ccc) is comprised of individuals with a minimum of 3 years underground coal mine

experience that shall have occurred within the 10-year period preceding their employment on the contract mine rescue team.

“(DD) A State-sponsored team made up of State employees.

“(iv) That the operator of each underground coal mine with 36 or less employees shall—

“(I) have an employee on each shift who is knowledgeable in mine emergency responses; and

“(II) make available two certified mine rescue teams whose members—

“(aa) are familiar with the operations of such coal mine;

“(bb) participate at least annually in two local mine rescue contests;

“(cc) participate at least semi-annually in mine rescue training at the underground coal mine covered by the mine rescue team;

“(dd) are available at the mine within one hour ground travel time from the mine rescue station;

“(ee) are knowledgeable about the operations and ventilation of the covered mines; and

“(ff) are comprised of individuals with a minimum of 3 years underground coal mine experience that shall have occurred within the 10-year period preceding their employment on the contract mine rescue team.”

### SEC. 5. PROMPT INCIDENT NOTIFICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 103(j) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 813(j)) is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: “For purposes of the preceding sentence, the notification required shall be provided by the operator within 15 minutes of the time at which the operator realizes that the death of an individual at the mine, or an injury or entrapment of an individual at the mine which has a reasonable potential to cause death, has occurred.”

(b) PENALTY.—Section 110(a) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 820(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The operator” and inserting “(1) The operator”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) The operator of a coal or other mine who fails to provide timely notification to the Secretary as required under section 103(j) (relating to the 15 minute requirement) shall be assessed a civil penalty by the Secretary of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$60,000.”

### SEC. 6. NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH.

(a) GRANTS.—Section 22 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 671) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) OFFICE OF MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be permanently established within the Institute an Office of Mine Safety and Health which shall be administered by an Associate Director to be appointed by the Director.

“(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Office is to enhance the development of new mine safety technology and technological applications and to expedite the commercial availability and implementation of such technology in mining environments.

“(3) FUNCTIONS.—In addition to all purposes and authorities provided for under this section, the Office of Mine Safety and Health shall be responsible for research, development, and testing of new technologies and equipment designed to enhance mine safety and health. To carry out such functions the Director of the Institute, acting through the Office, shall have the authority to—

“(A) award competitive grants to institutions and private entities to encourage the development and manufacture of mine safety equipment;

“(B) award contracts to educational institutions or private laboratories for the performance of product testing or related work with respect to new mine technology and equipment; and

“(C) establish an interagency working group as provided for in paragraph (5).

“(4) GRANT AUTHORITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under the authority provided for under paragraph (3)(A), an entity or institution shall—

“(A) submit to the Director of the Institute an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require; and

“(B) include in the application under subparagraph (A), a description of the mine safety equipment to be developed and manufactured under the grant and a description of the reasons that such equipment would otherwise not be developed or manufactured, including reasons relating to the limited potential commercial market for such equipment.

“(5) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Institute, in carrying out paragraph (3)(D) shall establish an interagency working group to share technology and technological research and developments that could be utilized to enhance mine safety and accident response.

“(B) MEMBERSHIP.—The working group under subparagraph (A) shall be chaired by the Associate Director of the Office who shall appoint the members of the working group, which may include representatives of other Federal agencies or departments as determined appropriate by the Associate Director.

“(C) DUTIES.—The working group under subparagraph (A) shall conduct an evaluation of research conducted by, and the technological developments of, agencies and departments who are represented on the working group that may have applicability to mine safety and accident response and make recommendations to the Director for the further development and eventual implementation of such technology.

“(6) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the establishment of the Office under this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Director of the Institute shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report that, with respect to the year involved, describes the new mine safety technologies and equipment that have been studied, tested, and certified for use, and with respect to those instances of technologies and equipment that have been considered but not yet certified for use, the reasons therefore.

“(7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated, such sums as may be necessary to enable the Institute and the Office of Mine Safety and Health to carry out this subsection.”.

## SEC. 7. REQUIREMENT CONCERNING FAMILY LIAISONS.

The Secretary of Labor shall establish a policy that—

(1) requires the temporary assignment of an individual Department of Labor official to be a liaison between the Department and the families of victims of mine tragedies involving multiple deaths;

(2) requires the Mine Safety and Health Administration to be as responsive as possible to requests from the families of mine accident victims for information relating to mine accidents; and

(3) requires that in such accidents, that the Mine Safety and Health Administration shall serve as the primary communicator with the

operator, miners' families, the press and the public.

## SEC. 8. PENALTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 110 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 820) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting “(1)” after the subsection designation; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) Any operator who willfully violates a mandatory health or safety standard, or knowingly violates or fails or refuses to comply with any order issued under section 104 and section 107, or any order incorporated in a final decision issued under this title, except an order incorporated in a decision under paragraph (1) or section 105(c), shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$250,000, or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by both, except that if the conviction is for a violation committed after the first conviction of such operator under this Act, punishment shall be by a fine of not more than \$500,000, or by imprisonment for not more than five years, or both.

“(3)(A) The minimum penalty for any citation or order issued under section 104(d)(1) shall be \$2,000.

“(B) The minimum penalty for any order issued under section 104(d)(2) shall be \$4,000.

“(4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent an operator from obtaining a review, in accordance with section 106, of an order imposing a penalty described in this subsection. If a court, in making such review, sustains the order, the court shall apply at least the minimum penalties required under this subsection.”; and

(2) by adding at the end of subsection (b) the following: “Violations under this section that are deemed to be flagrant may be assessed a civil penalty of not more than \$220,000. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term ‘flagrant’ with respect to a violation means a reckless or repeated failure to make reasonable efforts to eliminate a known violation of a mandatory health or safety standard that substantially and proximately caused, or reasonably could have been expected to cause, death or serious bodily injury.”.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than December 30, 2006, the Secretary of Labor shall promulgate final regulations with respect to penalties.

## SEC. 9. FINE COLLECTIONS.

Section 108(a)(1)(A) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 818(a)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting before the comma, the following: “, or fails or refuses to comply with any order or decision, including a civil penalty assessment order, that is issued under this Act”.

## SEC. 10. SEALING OF ABANDONED AREAS.

Not later than 18 months after the issuance by the Mine Safety and Health Administration of a final report on the Sago Mine accident or the date of enactment of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006, whichever occurs earlier, the Secretary of Labor shall finalize mandatory health and safety standards relating to the sealing of abandoned areas in underground coal mines. Such health and safety standards shall provide for an increase in the 20 psi standard currently set forth in section 75.335(a)(2) of title 30, Code of Federal Regulations.

## SEC. 11. TECHNICAL STUDY PANEL.

Title V of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 951 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

### “SEC. 514. TECHNICAL STUDY PANEL.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Technical Study Panel (referred to in this

section as the ‘Panel’) which shall provide independent scientific and engineering review and recommendations with respect to the utilization of belt air and the composition and fire retardant properties of belt materials in underground coal mining.

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Panel shall be composed of—

“(1) two individuals to be appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Associate Director of the Office of Mine Safety;

“(2) two individuals to be appointed by the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health; and

“(3) two individuals, one to be appointed jointly by the majority leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives and one to be appointed jointly by the minority leader of the Senate and House of Representatives, each to be appointed prior to the sine die adjournment of the second session of the 109th Congress.

“(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—Four of the six individuals appointed to the Panel under subsection (b) shall possess a masters or doctoral level degree in mining engineering or another scientific field demonstrably related to the subject of the report. No individual appointed to the Panel shall be an employee of any coal or other mine, or of any labor organization, or of any State or Federal agency primarily responsible for regulating the mining industry.

“(d) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which all members of the Panel are appointed under subsection (b), the Panel shall prepare and submit to the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report concerning the utilization of belt air and the composition and fire retardant properties of belt materials in underground coal mining.

“(2) RESPONSE BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 180 days after the receipt of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Labor shall provide a response to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives containing a description of the actions, if any, that the Secretary intends to take based upon the report, including proposing regulatory changes, and the reasons for such actions.

“(e) COMPENSATION.—Members appointed to the panel, while carrying out the duties of the Panel shall be entitled to receive compensation, per diem in lieu of subsistence, and travel expenses in the same manner and under the same conditions as that prescribed under section 208(c) of the Public Health Service Act.”.

## SEC. 12. SCHOLARSHIPS.

Title V of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 951 et seq.), as amended by section 11, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

### “SEC. 515. SCHOLARSHIPS.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Education (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’), in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall establish a program to provide scholarships to eligible individuals to increase the skilled workforce for both private sector coal mine operators and mine safety inspectors and other regulatory personnel for the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

“(b) FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS SCHOLARSHIPS.—“(1) IN GENERAL.—Under the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may award scholarship to fully or partially pay the tuition costs of eligible individuals enrolled in 2-year associate’s degree programs at community colleges or other colleges and universities that focus on providing the fundamental skills and training that is of immediate use to a beginning coal miner.

“(2) SKILLS.—The skills described in paragraph (1) shall include basic math, basic health and safety, business principles, management and supervisory skills, skills related to electric circuitry, skills related to heavy equipment operations, and skills related to communications.

“(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this subsection an individual shall—

“(A) have a high school diploma or a GED;

“(B) have at least 2 years experience in full-time employment in mining or mining-related activities;

“(C) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information; and

“(D) demonstrate an interest in working in the field of mining and performing an internship with the Mine Safety and Health Administration or the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Office of Mine Safety.

“(c) MINE SAFETY INSPECTOR SCHOLARSHIPS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Under the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may award scholarship to fully or partially pay the tuition costs of eligible individuals enrolled in undergraduate bachelor’s degree programs at accredited colleges or universities that provide the skills needed to become mine safety inspectors.

“(2) SKILLS.—The skills described in paragraph (1) include skills developed through programs leading to a degree in mining engineering, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, environmental engineering, industrial hygiene, occupational health and safety, geology, chemistry, or other fields of study related to mine safety and health work.

“(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this subsection an individual shall—

“(A) have a high school diploma or a GED;

“(B) have at least 5 years experience in full-time employment in mining or mining-related activities;

“(C) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information; and

“(D) agree to be employed for a period of at least 5 years at the Mine Safety and Health Administration or, to repay, on a pro-rated basis, the funds received under this program, plus interest, at a rate established by the Secretary upon the issuance of the scholarship.

“(d) ADVANCED RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Under the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may award scholarships to fully or partially pay the tuition costs of eligible individuals enrolled in undergraduate bachelor’s degree, masters degree, and Ph.D. degree programs at accredited colleges or universities that provide the skills needed to augment and advance research in mine safety and to broaden, improve, and expand the universe of candidates for mine safety inspector and other regulatory positions in the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

“(2) SKILLS.—The skills described in paragraph (1) include skills developed through programs leading to a degree in mining engineering, civil engineering, mechanical engineering,

electrical engineering, industrial engineering, environmental engineering, industrial hygiene, occupational health and safety, geology, chemistry, or other fields of study related to mine safety and health work.

“(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this subsection an individual shall—

“(A) have a bachelor’s degree or equivalent from an accredited 4-year institution;

“(B) have at least 5 years experience in full-time employment in underground mining or mining-related activities; and

“(C) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information.

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.”.

#### SEC. 13. RESEARCH CONCERNING REFUGE ALTERNATIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health shall provide for the conduct of research, including field tests, concerning the utility, practicality, survivability, and cost of various refuge alternatives in an underground coal mine environment, including commercially available portable refuge chambers.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health shall prepare and submit to the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report concerning the results of the research conducted under subsection (a), including any field tests.

(2) RESPONSE BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 180 days after the receipt of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Labor shall provide a response to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives containing a description of the actions, if any, that the Secretary intends to take based upon the report, including proposing regulatory changes, and the reasons for such actions.

#### SEC. 14. BROOKWOOD-SAGO MINE SAFETY GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall establish a program to award competitive grants for education and training, to be known as Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety Grants, to carry out the purposes of this section.

(b) PURPOSES.—It is the purpose of this section, to provide for the funding of education and training programs to better identify, avoid, and prevent unsafe working conditions in and around mines.

(c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall—

(1) be a public or private nonprofit entity; and

(2) submit to the Secretary of Labor an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(d) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received under a grant under this section shall be used to establish and implement education and training programs, or to develop training materials for employers and miners, concerning safety and health topics in mines, as determined appropriate by the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

(e) AWARDING OF GRANTS.—

(1) ANNUAL BASIS.—Grants under this section shall be awarded on an annual basis.

(2) SPECIAL EMPHASIS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary of Labor shall give special emphasis to programs and materials that target workers in smaller mines, including training miners and employers about new Mine Safety and Health Administration standards, high risk activities, or hazards identified by such Administration.

(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary of Labor shall give priority to the funding of pilot and demonstration projects that the Secretary determines will provide opportunities for broad applicability for mine safety.

(f) EVALUATION.—The Secretary of Labor shall use not less than 1 percent of the funds made available to carry out this section in a fiscal year to conduct evaluations of the projects funded under grants under this section.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2803.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2803, the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act, or the MINER Act. Though the number of mining fatalities and injuries reached record lows in 2005, this year’s tragedies at the Sago mine in West Virginia and the others that have followed have served to bring the issue of mine health and safety into much sharper focus.

Today, after unnecessarily waiting for 2 weeks, the House is finally poised to act. My colleagues, let us not squander this unique opportunity to send comprehensive mine safety reforms to President Bush for his signature.

Throughout 2006, the Education and the Workforce Committee has held a series of oversight hearings and briefings during which we heard from Federal mine safety officials, mine workers, representatives from the mining industry and Members of the House. These oversight proceedings pointed toward a very clear need for better communications technology, modernized safety practices within U.S. mines and strengthening the enforcement of current mine safety laws.

□ 1345

Each of these needs is addressed comprehensively by the MINER Act, which was passed last month by the Senate without a single voice in opposition.

In addition to universal bipartisan support in the Senate, this legislation

enjoys strong support in its current form from the United Mine Workers of America, the National Mining Association, and a bipartisan group of House Members from key mining States, including Kentucky and West Virginia.

In short, this is an issue that has cut across party lines, enjoys rare support from both labor and industry, and deserves overwhelming support from the House when we vote on the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the way our committee, and Workforce Protections Subcommittee Chairman NORWOOD, in particular, has deliberately and thoughtfully considered ways to enhance the safety of America's miners. Because of our panel's thorough series of hearings and briefings, we are poised to take an important step today toward modernizing mine safety law for the first time in a generation.

I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, in particular, Mr. NORWOOD, Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. ROGERS, as well as the entire West Virginia and Kentucky delegations for assisting our committee in this effort.

Our Nation's miners and their families will be better off for it. I ask my colleagues to join me in the ever-growing chorus of supporters in backing the MINER Act.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 8 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, as Members are aware, I have spoken out forcefully on the need for rapid Federal action to address mine safety. I have urged this Congress to legislate, to push us toward a new era in which the technology that has helped revitalize the productivity of the mining industry would also be used to save the lives and limbs of our miners.

Unfortunately, the bill sent from the Senate fails to make the reforms that go to the very heart of what happened in the Sago mine disaster. It fails in three significant ways. It does not guarantee that miners trapped underground will have enough air to survive an accident like Sago. It does not give miners prompt access to wireless communications and electronic tracking devices so they can communicate with their rescuers instead of having to bang on pipes and bang on rocks like miners did hundreds of years ago.

It does not guarantee that the emergency oxygen units like the ones that Randal McCloy, the only Sago survivor, told us in some cases were defective, and would be tested at random by the Federal Government to ensure that they work properly.

In other words, if another Sago mine disaster were to happen, this bill does not ensure that we would not have the same tragic deaths, because it does not address what killed the miners in the Sago mine disaster.

I want to remind Members that 11 of the 12 miners that died at Sago did not die from the initial explosion. They died because they did not have commu-

nication tools to lead them to safety; they died because they did not have an oxygen supply to last the 40 hours that they were trapped.

I cannot, in good conscience, support a bill if passed that would not prevent another Sago, when we understand the tragedy that took place there.

When it comes to the safety of miners, and thousands of miners and families across the Nation, the House can do better than take-it-or-leave-it legislation that fails to provide that margin of safety that these families are entitled to.

In the last 10 days, there have been two significant developments that demonstrate that we can and we must do better than the Senate bill. Last week, the Industry Labor Mine Technology Panel appointed by Governor Manchin of West Virginia composed of equal numbers of industry and miner representatives, concluded that there were significant enhancements to miner safety that could be achieved through wide application of existing technologies and techniques.

Then this industry labor report makes two recommendations that go to the heart of the matter: that emergency shelters and chambers shall provide a minimum of 48 hours of breathable air and in no later than 15 months mine operators will have to submit a communications and tracking plan for approval.

That is all that the amendments that I have offered suggest that we do, i.e., what is now accepted in the mining industry in the State of West Virginia. Now, someone explain this to me: the coal mine industry in West Virginia agrees with the West Virginia miners that there should be a guaranteed 48 hours of breathable air in a crisis, but the Congress of the United States refuses to provide that same promise to miners across the country.

The coal mining industry in West Virginia agrees that miners should have prompt access to wireless communications and electronic tracking devices, but the Congress of the United States refuses to provide that same promise to miners across this Nation.

And here is another development. A few weeks ago, the Illinois legislature sent far-reaching mine safety legislation to the Governor's desk. It passed 111-0. It passed the Senate 57-1.

The IL bill has two critical reforms, emergency mine chambers with 48 hours of air and rapid installation of wireless communications by the end of the year. The State of Illinois can promise no more Sago tragedies.

The coal mining industry in West Virginia can make that promise, but the U.S. House is being asked to ignore all of that evidence, all of those improvements, and rubber stamp a Senate bill with no opportunity to improve it.

That is wrong, and we should not stand for it. I have spent a great deal of time over the last few months listening to what those Sago families have to tell us. I have listened to their very

specific and very reasonable recommendations.

I listened to Mrs. Debbie Hamner, who lost her husband, Junior, in the Sago tragedy. As many of you know, only one of the twelve miners who died in that tragedy was killed by the explosion. The rest died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Junior Hamner was one of those who died in that manner. And Mrs. Hamner asked why were they not equipped with enough oxygen. Why did we not require air supplies to be stored in the mine sections that they were working?

Why do Canadian miners have greater protections than the miners of West Virginia or miners elsewhere in the United States? That is what she wanted to know. And Debbie said, sadly the bill before us today does not even mandate a minimum air supply for miners trapped underground, let alone require a refuge stocked with air, food and water, so that miners would not have to do what they did in Sago when they were trapped, which was to construct a barrier and bang on rocks and hope for the very best.

Amber Helms, whose father, Terry, died at Sago, pointed out to us that the miners were still alive after the Sago explosion. The men tried to walk out. The mine foreman tried to walk toward them. But although they ended up only a few hundred yards apart, the foreman did not know where they were and was not able to tell them where they could find good air or a safe way that they could walk out.

It is ridiculous, Amber told us, that I can get a computer and I can make a full Web page in an hour, but they cannot find my dad, and they cannot track him. It turns out that Amber was right, that devices are available in the market right now to track the location of these miners. These devices are available, and they should be used and they should be used soon.

Last month, the sole survivor of the Sago mine accident, Mr. Randal McCloy, wrote a letter to the families of those who did not survive that mining disaster. Mr. McCloy stated that a number of the self-contained rescue units that were issued for their protection failed to operate.

The final amendment that I chose to offer to this legislation would make sure that we would have random inspections of those devices so those miners could have reliability if another tragedy should hit.

We understand that the needs are here, and that is why I am telling you that this legislation is not complete. We should not be taking it on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. The House should have the opportunity to debate. Apparently we are not too busy today for we were going to do this at 6 o'clock and now we are doing this at 2 o'clock. We could have had an hours debate. We could have offered some amendments, voted them up or down, and we then could have moved on about our way.

But we have chosen instead to close out these concerns of these miners and these families. We have chosen to close out what we have now learned about the technology. We have chosen to close out the agreements that the mining industry and the miners have reached in some States but not in all States, and we have chosen, worst of all, not to mitigate and protect and provide a margin of safety to those miners, should we have a repeat of the Sago mine disaster.

We know Sago happened. We know why the miners were killed, and we know what we can do to prevent it. It is within our grasp. It is inexpensive and it is readily available. But in the Senate bill it is not required for another 3 years.

In the Senate bill, we do not specify a minimum of 48 hours of oxygen, as West Virginia has started to specify and as the State of Illinois has specified. So this is not about being way out on the cutting edge and trying to destroy a bill or kill a bill or any of the rest of that. This is about spending time with these families and seeing that grief and having to try and answer the questions that they ask, no longer on behalf of their husbands, their brothers, their uncles, no longer on their own behalf, but on behalf of the other mining families in their communities, and the other mining families in other States that are not addressing this situation.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that my colleagues would vote against the suspension of the rules under this act, and that we would be able to take this legislation up, offer these amendments, win, lose or draw. At least then we could have said that we made the last best effort to provide immediate security, immediate remedy to the failures that led to the loss of life in these mine disasters.

It is well documented, the problems and the impacts and the fatalities that were created by those shortcomings. The Senate bill simply does not address those.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I understand Mr. MILLER's comments. I agree with much of what he says. It would be nice to have some of the issues that he has talked about. Also, Chairman NORWOOD, the subcommittee chairman, had other things that he wanted to put in the bill to make it better.

But as my former chairman, now our majority leader, Mr. BOEHNER, has said many times, we have to guard against making the perfect the enemy of the good. And we have been given a unique opportunity by a bill passed by the Senate unanimously to move forward to help mine worker safety at this time.

And rather than continue to talk this matter to death, and to continue to delay bringing safety to these miners,

we should take this opportunity and pass this bill today.

I would like to introduce into the RECORD the letter from the United Mine Workers of America. "The United States Senate unanimously passed legislation that is aimed at improving miner safety and offering miners a fighting chance of survival in the event of a mine emergency. Senate bill 2803," which we are talking about, "the MINER Act, was a bipartisan bill that every Member of the Senate, Republican and Democrat alike, recognized would begin to offer better protection to miners. Indeed, this bill represents the first overhaul of the Nation's mining laws since the adoption of the 1977 Federal Mine and Safety Act," and he encourages all Members to vote for this bill today.

I would like to say that I have asked Chairman NORWOOD to continue to work to improve and bring other improvements to the floor, but I encourage all of our Members to support this bill today, to get it to the President's desk, to do what we can immediately to help protect miner safety.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL).

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by commending the gentleman from California for his over three decades of work in this body on behalf of our coal miners and our working men and women of this country. I salute his dedication and his career that he has built in helping improve those conditions.

Mr. Speaker, myself, speaking on behalf of myself, I will take a back seat, however, to no Member of this body in regard to standing up for our coal miners, standing up for their fair health and safety conditions, and standing up for pneumoconiosis benefits, over my entire career here as well.

This has been a dark, mournful year for our Nation's coal miners. Thirty-three deaths, 33 lives lost by decent hardworking men who have placed their trust in a mine safety system that failed them. Today the clouds begin to part. The mine tragedies of this year resulted from many years of growing complacency and diminishing compliance.

They happened because our Nation's mine safety system has been veering in the wrong direction for far too long. Indeed, several years ago I issued a siren's call when I offered an amendment on this floor to the labor appropriations bill to block the Mine Safety Health Administration from issuing regulations that would have allowed a four-fold increase of respirable dust in our underground coal mines.

□ 1400

We must recall that Congress armed MSHA with a sharp regulatory axe. But

instead of using that weapon, in recent years MSHA has opted for the warm and fuzzy gimmick called partnership. What should have been sharp, steep and painful fines for safety violations have been reduced repeatedly to little more than love taps.

As new safety technologies have become commonplace in the mines of foreign competitors, MSHA failed to prod American mines that have plodded along with old devices. It did not punish and deter habitual violators. It did not update and maintain safety rules. It did not fulfill its statutory mandate or its responsibility to the miners it has been charged with protecting.

The pending measure will begin, begin, I stress, to change all that. This bill is not a cure-all. It is not a perfect bill. The only perfect bill around this body anymore is naming a post office after somebody. It is misleading and dangerous to suggest that any bill can be a cure-all, but it is a step in the right direction, a step that must not be delayed. To delay this legislation, no matter how noble the intentions, is to gamble recklessly with the lives of our Nation's coal miners.

Indeed, I would say to the gentleman from California, good decent GEORGE, that there are provisions missing from the pending legislation that were in our West Virginia bipartisan congressional bill. There are also provisions in the gentleman from California's and my bill that are not in this legislation. But as I said, this bill at hand is a beginning. The death toll in my congressional district, the death toll in the State of West Virginia, the death toll across our Nation's coal fields must halt, no more delay in acting.

The MINER Act pending before us, the Senate-passed bill, does include a number of improvements over the current law. That is what we are talking about, taking a step in the right direction. The pending bill is supported by the United Mine Workers of America, by the National Mining Association, by the Governor of the State of West Virginia, and might I add by the daughter of a miner quoted by the gentleman from California, Amber Helms, who said, "We support The MINER Act recently passed by the United States Senate because we believe it is better than what we have in our law right now. But if it can be improved upon without delay that is where we stand. If this bill as written right now is the best we can do today, then we urge the United States Congress to pass it immediately."

This bill is the best we can do today. It must be acted upon before further deaths occur in our coal mines.

The bill does call for immediate action to incorporate workable communication devices. The bill that we are talking about today does make immediate requirements for more oxygen, enough to evacuate miners in the event of an emergency and enough to maintain miners for a sustainable period of time if they are trapped underground.



The act does not designate a 48-hour supply, as the gentleman from California would do, because how does one honestly determine that 48 hours of oxygen is sufficient as opposed to 49 hours or 72 hours?

Indeed, the act requires each coal operator, in consultation with the miners and their representatives, to look at the individual mines, and as the gentleman from California knows, mines are different, and determine, subject to approval in a biennial review by the Secretary of Labor, what is an adequate amount of oxygen.

This bill addresses the seals. It requires the Secretary of Labor to develop promulgations and rules to strengthen the seals that have been the cause of recent disasters. This bill is a workable piece of legislation. It cannot be amended; otherwise we go to a conference committee. Who knows when it will then be passed, and it must be acted upon today. I urge passage.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the subcommittee chairman on the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the MINER Act.

Mr. Speaker, I am the proud representative of 21 coal producing counties and 15,000 Kentucky miners stretching along the Appalachian coal seam in eastern Kentucky. These are good paying jobs in challenging economic areas, generational jobs passed down through families and neighbors for years, requiring training, education and, most importantly, hard work. Anyone who has been in these mines a mile underground, as some of us have, knows that underground mining also comes with a great amount of risk.

My constituents have and are willing to take those risks in order to provide for their families. By also to provide the Nation the coal that we need to keep our homes warm and economic engines running. These risks and the dangers of coal mining have been brought directly into the living room televisions of many Americans over last 6 months. In my district it has been much closer to home. The Holmes Mills tragedy in Harlan County, Kentucky, underscores the need for comprehensive mine safety legislation that provides critically needed protections for miners and strengthens the Federal Government's ability to enforce safety regulations now.

We have not had comprehensive mine safety reform in the country for decades. Technology has changed, communication equipment has changed, our laws have not changed. With that said and with our thoughts and prayers still with the families touched by these accidents, Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my coal State colleagues in support of this MINER Act.

First, I want to thank Chairman NORWOOD and Chairman McKEON for working together with the majority

leader to move mine safety legislation now, not later, not next year, not next month, not after some conference committee where the Senate sits on it for 6 months but now, and I thank them for that. We should not delay one more day putting into place requirements to further protect these brave miners going even as we speak into the dark of these mines.

This bill honors the brave men, 11 in Kentucky and in my district this year who have died in mine-related accidents. They are not forgotten. Mining has always been a dangerous occupation and make no mistake, this legislation will not make mining injury free, but it does go a long way toward that end. With this legislation we reaffirm our commitment to seeing miners have the proper training, rescue equipment, communications devices and plans in place should an accident occur.

I have met with industry leaders, met with the miners, and everyone agrees there is room for measured and achievable improvement. This bill strikes a reasonable compromise and seeks to put the best available technology in the hands of our mining men and women while encouraging development of new technologies.

The Senate wisely moved this legislation quickly and unopposed, and I hope we do the same here. I am particularly pleased the bill includes some of these provisions. One, it requires the use of wireless two-way communications and tracking systems within 3 years. It requires each mine's emergency response plan to continuously be reviewed, updated and recertified by MSHA every 6 months. It also gives MSHA the power to request an injunction, that is to say, shut down a mine in cases where the mine has refused to pay a final order or MSHA penalty.

It would require rescue teams to be close to mines and granted immunity. It would require each miner to have a minimum of 2 hours' supply of air and require storage of additional breathing devices along the escape routes from the mine.

These measures, Mr. Speaker, go straight to the trouble we have seen and should give comfort to our mining families. This legislation, Mr. Speaker, honors Kentucky's 17,000 hardworking coal miners, but all the others in the country as well who bravely go into the heart of the Earth to put bread on the table and to bring light into the lives of all Americans.

Our hats go off to these miners, and I urge that we pass this bill in their honor and in their memory.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN).

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN).

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen from California, each, for yielding and for their work on this important legislation and a lifetime of work for safety for workers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2803, The Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006. The need for improvements in coal mine health and safety has been tragically reaffirmed by the mine disasters in my home State earlier this year. On January 2, 2006, an explosion in the Sago mine in Upshur County, West Virginia, followed on January 19 by a second disaster in the Aracoma Alma mine in Logan County, took the lives of our Nation's finest, our coal miners, forever changing the lives of their loved ones and shocking the State and the Nation into once again revisiting the adequacy of our coal mine health and safety laws.

The entire West Virginia delegation is in support of this bill. In the Senate it passed unanimously with the backing of West Virginia's esteemed delegation, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD and Senator JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER. Here in the House, Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. CAPITO and I recently introduced the House companion to that bill, H.R. 5432.

I urge passage of S. 2803 today so that the important work to improve mine safety can begin immediately. New approaches to safety challenges are clearly needed, particularly in light of advances in technology, and we cannot afford to waste another minute.

Among other things, the MINER Act that we consider here requires that miners have emergency air breathable for a sustained period of time and that caches providing at least 2 hours of breathable air per miner be placed at 30-minute intervals from the working area to the surface. It also requires that a redundant means of communicating with the surface be provided in each mine as well as a post-accident tracking system.

I should note that the United Mine Workers of America and the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations both, Mr. Speaker, support this legislation. While not perfect, this is the first best effort to quickly bring significant enhancements to safety in our Nation's coal mines.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) has 9½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN).

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN).

MR. HOLDEN. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for yielding me the time.

I rise in support of this bill, but I agree with the ranking member that this bill is not perfect. One of the ways that this bill could have been improved



is if we would have addressed the way MSHA deals with anthracite coal mining versus bituminous coal mining, two very different forms of coal, hard coal versus soft coal, irregular veins versus consistent veins. They are mined differently and they should be regulated differently.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognizes that. They have two separate laws. They have two separate divisions that deal with regulation and enforcement of the safety laws. In northeastern Pennsylvania and the anthracite fields that I represent, along with Mr. KANJORSKI and Mr. SHERWOOD, there is a division in western Pennsylvania in the bituminous field; there is another one with two separate laws. MSHA has consistently said that one-size-fits-all is what they will do in regulation.

Mr. Speaker, that does not work. The Inspector General from the Department of Labor issued a report on March 31 of this year that I would like to read in the RECORD: "MSHA has not fully addressed the possibility that current regulations do not adequately reflect operating methods and conditions unique to anthracite coal mining. We recommend," meaning the Inspector General, "that MSHA evaluate whether the existing petitions for the modification process efficiently address the applicability of existing regulations to varying mining techniques or whether any existing regulations require revisions for anthracite mining methods."

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation today, but I ask the chairman and ranking member to work with me as we try to convince MSHA that there is an Inspector General's report, there is a precedent in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania realizing the difference in anthracite mining and bituminous mining. And we can protect our miners and we can do it in a fair way.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. CHANDLER).

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for all his work on this issue.

Mining coal is indeed a way of life in Kentucky. Our fellow citizens who work in our coal mines have been and are still very much at risk. To date there have been 33 miners killed in the United States this year alone, most recently at the Darby mine in eastern Kentucky which took the lives of five miners.

□ 1415

As public servants, it is our job to protect the people that we represent. While the bill before us today does not include all of the protections many of us would like, it is certainly a start. This bill will save lives.

I support this bill, but I also urge my colleagues to see this bill as only a beginning to the reforms that need to be passed to make sure that our miners

have the very safest workplace possible.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, listening to the gentleman from Pennsylvania reminded me, my grandfather and my great-grandfather came over from Ireland. They settled in Pennsylvania, and some of his brothers died from black lung disease, and my great-grandfather came out to Utah and was able to survive that.

You know, I think it is great that we are able to work today on a bipartisan basis to get this bill done. It's unfortunate that it takes tragedies such as we have seen to draw us together. I remember after 9/11 how we all gathered on the steps out here, and we really were united as Americans.

I understand there is some opposition to this bill, but mostly, I think we are working together to try to move correctly further safety to the miners.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues who spoke to this issue. All of them have worked very hard on behalf of mine safety, not just in the aftermath of these most recent tragedies but throughout their entire congressional careers. We share that in common.

This is not an adversarial relationship. This is a difference of opinion, and I think it is an important difference of opinion.

I think that when we went back and we went over these tragedies and saw what it was that killed these miners, we saw that we also had the capabilities to address the causes and to address them now, and not wait 3 years to do some of this.

We also understood that the quantities of oxygen required for trapped miners would be a minimum of 48 hours. It was after some 20 hours that Junior Hamner at Sago wrote a note (that was found from him) that said, I am in no pain now, but I don't know how long the air will last.

If we pass this legislation without these amendments, we do not know how long the air will last. There is no minimum standard in this bill and it should be made explicit on behalf of the miners. Other miners told us that the air-pack units were not working adequately. We need random spot checks to make sure that there is reliability in the air-packs.

We heard the stories of the trapped Sago miners struggling to communicate as they would have 100 years ago in the mines, by banging on pipes and banging rocks together. The fact of the matter is it is now within our grasp to address these problems and address them now.

Under this legislation, as it is currently written, if a Sago-type mine accident were to happen again, a month

from now or 6 months from now, we do not provide the remedies that are necessary to save lives. Given what we learned from the Sago mine accident, I would hope that the Congress would do that.

This is not about speed. It's about getting it right. I have been here 30 years, and so very often I have been told if this amendment passes, that is the end of the process, and later that night, we pass the bill with the amendment. We all understand what the attempt here is, and I understand the desire of my colleagues who are so deeply impacted by these tragedies to get this legislation on the books. I would hope that my colleagues would pause for a moment because maybe when I first spoke of them, there was some controversy about these amendments. But the judgment that I have brought to this bill and the determination that I have brought to this bill, has now been ratified by the coal commission in West Virginia and by the State legislature in Illinois.

These are key components for the survivability of these kinds of accidents since the Sago miners were not killed by the initial explosion, rockfall or other incident that took place. And that's why I am so compelled to stand here. It's not easy.

I have gotten more interesting phone calls from the Senate from Members who are interested in the bill than I probably have in the last 5 years. These are men I have worked with my entire career: Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, Senator JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, Senator KENNEDY. They are friends. They are heroes of mine. But we have a disagreement here. It is fundamental. I believe it is important, and I would hope that we could be able to do this.

I would urge my colleagues to vote against this suspension of the rules so we would have a chance to address this in limited open debate, with up-or-down votes. I am not here to delay the bill at all, and I would hope that that would be the outcome of this debate.

Again, I think all of us, whether people agree with me or disagree with me, all of us share the desire to increase the margins of safety for those individuals who go into the mines and for their families who remain on the surface.

We have talked a great deal about energy. This is a key component of energy. We need these people to continue to go into the mines, and all of us desire to increase those margins of safety for them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. I propose that we take this bill and we pass it today. We continue to work to improve miner safety. We do not wait another 30 years plus to have this issue addressed.

I would like to place into the RECORD the letter from the National Mining

Association supporting rapid action on this bill and others.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE,

Washington, DC, June 6, 2006.

Hon. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SENSENBRENNER: Thank you for your recent letter regarding the consideration of S. 2803, the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006. I agree that my committee shares jurisdiction over the provisions of the bill related to limited liability for rescue operation, penalties, and fine collection with the Committee on the Judiciary.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo consideration of S. 2803 by your committee. I agree that waiving consideration of S. 2803 in no way diminishes or alters the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on the Judiciary. I will include your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during the bill's consideration on the House floor.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,

Washington, DC, June 7, 2006.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON,  
Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN McKEON: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of S. 2803, the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006, the Committee on the Judiciary hereby waives consideration of the bill. There are a number of provisions contained in S. 2803 that implicate the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary. Specifically, the bill contains provisions relating to limitation on rescue operation liability, penalties, and fine collection that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that by forgoing consideration of S. 2803, the Committee on the Judiciary does not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and requests your support if such a request is made. Finally, I would appreciate your including this letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of S. 2803 on the House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.  
Chairman.

UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA,  
Fairfax VA, June 5, 2006.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The tragic events that have unfolded in the coalfield communities since January 2, 2006 have captured the attention of the entire nation. As you are no doubt aware, thirty-three coal miners have lost their lives while attempting to fulfill the energy needs of the country. This is far too high a price for workers in any industry to pay for merely going to work and supporting their families. The United Mine Workers of America urges you to support the bipartisan MINER Act, to improve coal miners' safety.

What makes these recent mining deaths so disturbing is that many could have been prevented. The United Mine Workers of America is convinced that had additional safety precautions been required by the Mine Safety

and Health Administration, many of those miners who perished may well have survived the initial fire or explosion. For example, had additional oxygen been available, if directional lifelines were provided, had emergency evacuation training been more comprehensive, and if state of the art communications had been in place, the chances of these miners surviving would have been greatly increased.

In assessing what went wrong in each of these events we must not stop after determining the underlying reasons for these tragedies. Rather, we must take a proactive approach and begin to implement laws that will better protect miners and prevent more families from living with the horror so many have recently confronted.

The United States Senate unanimously passed legislation that is aimed at improving miners' safety and offering miners a fighting chance of survival in the event of a mine emergency. Senate Bill 2803—the MINER Act—was a bi-partisan bill that every member of the Senate—Republican and Democrat alike—recognized would begin to offer better protection to miners. Indeed, this Bill represents the first overhaul of the Nation's mining laws since the adoption of the 1977 Federal Mine Safety and Health Act.

The coal mining deaths of 2006 have reminded the nation how dangerous this occupation can be if left unchecked. The time for legislation to address miners' safety is long overdue. The Senate has acted, and it is my heartfelt belief that SB 2803 will improve miners' protections in the coal industry. Therefore, I urge you to cast your vote in favor of the MINER Act when it comes to the floor of the House to protect the Nation's miners and their families. It constitutes an essential first step in addressing the many hazards coal miners still face today.

Sincerely,

CECIL E. ROBERTS,  
International President.

NATIONAL MINING ASSOCIATION,  
Washington, DC, June 6, 2006.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON,  
Chairman, House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLIE NORWOOD,  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN McKEON AND NORWOOD: The National Mining Association (NMA) commends you and the House leadership for moving S. 2308, the "Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (MINER) Act," to the floor for swift consideration.

The MINER Act contains many of NMA's legislative principles regarding improvements needed in the area of communications and tracking, mine rescue and breathable air supplies. We appreciated the opportunity to share these principles with you and the members of the committee during the extensive hearing process conducted earlier this year.

NMA is pleased to join the United Mine Workers of America in calling for passage of the MINER Act. Our alliance in support of this legislation should be viewed as a testament to its importance for America's underground coal miners. We are also pleased this legislation has received broad bipartisan Congressional support and strongly believe it will lead to safer mines. America's underground coal miners deserve no less.

Again, thank you for making mine safety legislation a priority. We stand ready to assist you in soliciting support from your colleagues for the MINER Act.

Sincerely yours,

KRAIG R. NAASZ,  
President & CEO

Mr. Speaker, I yield the remainder of our time to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), who has been a strong leader on pushing to get this bill to the floor.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from California for yielding and start by thanking my colleagues in the West Virginia delegation for their efforts on this legislation. Our delegation has truly stood as one on behalf of the safety of our State's miners. We stood together in the Senate hall, all five of us together, and pledged to make a difference through legislation.

I would like to thank the leadership, and I would like to thank Chairman McKEON and Chairman NORWOOD for their quick action on bringing this matter to the floor. I would like to thank my fellow Members from other coal States who have suffered such tragedies.

I would like to make something clear. The MINER Act is not a controversial piece of legislation. It is slightly unfortunate that there has been some confusion around the issue that's important to the people of West Virginia and other mining States. As we have heard from the other Members, this is a great opportunity, a good chance, a good first step and one we must seize.

This bill has unique support across the mining community and across geographic and political lines. The UNWA, the National Mining Association, the AFL-CIO, and the West Virginia Coal Association and others support passage of this, and the Senate has unanimously passed this legislation.

As we have heard, the legislation would require every underground coal mine in the country to have its own emergency response such as tracking devices and flame resistant post-accident lifelines. The bill immediately requires a redundant means of communication with the surface, using the best system that is technologically feasible.

This legislation takes a major step in making sure miners have a reliable supply of oxygen underground. The bill makes sure that miners have a 2-hour supply of oxygen throughout the mines, spaced at distances the average miner can walk in 30 minutes.

A crucial provision also requires a maintenance and replacement schedule for the emergency breathing devices. Statements from survivors of recent mine accidents have questioned whether emergency breathing equipment was functioning properly, and this bill helps address that.

To make sure that precious time is not lost in assembling mine rescue teams, this bill makes sure that every mine has at least two mine rescue teams that can reach the site within an hour.

For those who violate safety regulations, this legislation increases the maximum civil and criminal penalties and allows MSHA to issue an injunction in order to close mines that fail to pay fines.

No one has said that the MINER Act is the final step in making miners safer. In fact, this is only the beginning of a renewed dialogue to make sure that we are doing everything we can to make sure our miners are safe.

I would like to remind my colleagues we have a choice, support the most significant revision to mine safety laws since 1977 or oppose the bill and cast a vote that will take us nowhere.

Mr. Speaker, the Sago mine is in my district. I waited with the families and the Upshur County community on that cold day in January as rescuers worked to save the Sago miners. I saw firsthand the pain suffered by the families when only one survivor was found. I looked into the eyes of the wives, of the sisters, the brothers, the mothers, the fathers as they learned that their loved ones were never coming back.

The Sago men and women are my constituents and my friends. They are the backbone of the great State of West Virginia and our Nation. For all of us, we cannot let this opportunity pass.

I ask that my colleagues join me to help these real men and women who have hopes and dreams, have a great faith in us, that we will help them to make sure that we pull together so that no one will suffer the tragedy and the heartache that they suffered that day in Sago and other days across this country.

I ask my colleagues to join me, to join me in making the right choice to improve mine safety by voting for the MINER Act.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this landmark mine safety legislation, S. 2803. Mine safety has been on all our minds this year, as Americans mourned the heartbreaking disasters at the Aracoma Alma and Sago mines in West Virginia in January. Thus, throughout the process of crafting this bill, all parties have wanted the end product to strongly improve safety for miners.

In my district in southwestern Pennsylvania, the mining industry has been a central part of the way of life for a century and a half. My great-grandfather was a coal miner, who worked in Pennsylvania mines when carts were pulled by mules and mines were lit by candles. Mining was very dangerous work then. The mining industry has certainly made remarkable strides ever since.

Today is another great step forward for miners in Pennsylvania and across the Nation; therefore, I am pleased to support S. 2803. On March 16, as mine safety legislation was being crafted, I was pleased to testify on the subject of mine safety before the Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Workforce Protections. On that day, I expressed many concerns about current mine conditions. For instance, I cited my concern about whether miners are sufficiently employing technology to communicate with one another, especially when accidents occur. S. 2803 requires that

all mines provide immediate notification of accidents and regularly update their emergency response plans. At the hearing, I also raised my discomfort with the use of "belt air," which can be unhealthy to breathe and even flammable. Accordingly, the bill before us prohibits the use of conveyor belts to ventilate work areas.

While recent tragedies have dominated the mining industry news of late, I hope we recount the success stories of the mining industry alongside some of the failures. For instance, CONSOL Energy, based in my district, sent their own rescue teams to the Sago mine in January. The CONSOL rescue teams arrived first at the scene, and they have worked tirelessly on many other occasions to help miners throughout Pennsylvania and West Virginia, regardless of who owns the mine. They are a success story I am pleased to highlight, of which we should all be proud.

The coal industry has helped fuel this Nation for 150 years, and coal can be used to heat our homes, power our economy, and protect our Nation for at least another 150 years if we continue to use it. We all grieved the tragic accidents in West Virginia in January. This bill will help prevent such accidents in the future.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, 33 underground coal miners have already been killed on the job so far this year, starting with the Sago mine disaster right after New Year's day. We do these fallen mineworkers as well as their surviving family members and friends a serious disservice by limiting debate on this bill to 40 minutes and barring any strengthening amendments. These hard-working men, their families and wider communities of friends and neighbors deserve far better treatment on the floor of the U.S. House. Unless we take legislative action that would prevent future mine disasters like those that occurred at Sago, Aracoma Alma, Darby and elsewhere this year, we are hoping rhetoric will mask our failure to deliver significant protections to hard-working mineworkers Nation-wide.

At the Sago mine disaster, a methane gas explosion killed one mineworker and trapped 12 others. It took 40 hours for rescuers to reach those trapped underground and by the time they did, 11 miners had died of carbon monoxide poisoning. The sole survivor at Sago, Randal McCloy, has since reported that at least four of the air-packs designed to provide an hour's worth of breathable air to the miners malfunctioned. Moreover, the Sago miners lacked one-way text messaging and tracking devices—devices that are currently used in mines throughout Australia, Chile, China and South Africa. Those devices would have saved lives at Sago.

To make certain that the Sago tragedy is never repeated in this country, I support wholeheartedly three simple amendments to this bill as proposed by Representative MILLER. They would require:

At least 48 hours of emergency air for each mineworker;

Finalized plans within 15 months for adding lifesaving communications and tracking equipment; and

Federal MSHA regularly conducted random field tests of airpicks, self contained self rescuers, to ensure they are in working order.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I wish to close with the question posed by the AFL-CIO about these three amendments in their letter to Con-

gress on mine safety: "Frankly, we do not understand why anybody would oppose such common sense measures."

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2803.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 699) supporting the goals and ideals of National Entrepreneurship Week and encouraging the implementation of entrepreneurship education programs in elementary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education through the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 699

Whereas according to the Department of Labor, most of the new jobs created throughout the United States in the past decade have come from the creative efforts of entrepreneurs and small businesses, which have been expanding and advancing technology and fueling the recent growth in the economy;

Whereas entrepreneurs have been the source of economic innovation throughout the history of the Nation, and the entire society has been improved because of the new ways of doing things that have been brought about by people who market their ideas;

Whereas economically independent entrepreneurs are engaged citizens who work to improve the economic environment in their local communities, providing better opportunities for businesses to operate and a better environment for the human resources they need to advance their business dreams;

Whereas 70 percent of high school students want to become entrepreneurs, and entrepreneurial skills will assist students in the future regardless of whether they work in a business owned by others or run their own business;

Whereas the high interest of students in becoming entrepreneurs and the critical role entrepreneurs have played in advancing the national economy make it vital for the Nation's schools to provide students with training in the skills which will enable them to become the entrepreneurs of the future;

Whereas the Partnership For 21st Century Skills identified financial, economic, business literacy, and entrepreneurship skills as the types of skills students must have in order to enhance workplace productivity and career options;

Whereas exposing students to the types of market-driven problems faced by entrepreneurs is an excellent example of how educators can use problem-based learning strategies to prepare students for the situations they will encounter in the future, an approach recommended by the National Council on Competitiveness in its 2004 report entitled "Innovate America";

Whereas entrepreneurship education provides exactly the type of academic engagement of all students promoted by the National High School Alliance, based on relevant real-world contexts that build on community assets, allow participation in workplace-based learning, and include performance-based assessments;

Whereas entrepreneurship education has been shown to be especially effective in closing the achievement gap between minority students and others in public schools;

Whereas students who participate in entrepreneurship education programs have better attendance records, perform better on core subjects, and have lower dropout rates than those who do not participate in these programs;

Whereas successful programs in entrepreneurship education have been established in many States, including the public-private partnership program in North Carolina by the Center for 21st Century Skills, which helps students acquire the knowledge and skills needed for success in the global economy and which has been touted as a national model for education in the 21st century;

Whereas the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation has assembled a multidisciplinary panel of distinguished scholars who will evaluate relevant research and review what has been learned in the many existing programs on entrepreneurship under way throughout the United States in order to provide recommendations for a comprehensive approach to teaching entrepreneurship in colleges and universities;

Whereas the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation has contributed significant time and resources to create the Kauffman Campus program to make entrepreneurship education a common and accessible campus-wide opportunity that is an integral part of the college experience;

Whereas the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education has developed and nurtured a lifelong entrepreneurship education model to encourage students' awareness of entrepreneurship as a career option throughout their years of school and to assist entrepreneurs as they implement their entrepreneurial ideas;

Whereas the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education has lead the initiative to broadly define the field of entrepreneurship through 403 performance indicators to guide the delivery of entrepreneurship education in support of the lifelong learning model;

Whereas, through the initiative to observe annually National Entrepreneurship Week, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education, and partner organizations promote awareness of the contributions of entrepreneurs as innovators, positive forces in the economy, and important resources for improving communities as places to live and work; and

Whereas National Entrepreneurship Week will focus on the innovative ways in which entrepreneurship education can bring together the core academic, technical, and problem solving skills essential for future entrepreneurs and successful workers in future workplaces: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) encourages the implementation of entrepreneurship education throughout the United States;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Entrepreneurship Week so that the people of the United States are reminded of the contributions of entrepreneurs and so that educators are encouraged to reflect on how entrepreneurship education can improve the performance of their students; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, State and Local governments, schools, nonprofit organization, and others to observe National Entrepreneurship Week annually with special events in support of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship education programs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 699.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 699, a resolution to support the goals and ideals of National Entrepreneurship Week and encourage the implementation of entrepreneurship education programs in elementary and secondary education schools and institutions of higher education throughout the United States.

I want to congratulate the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), as well as House Committee on Education and the Workforce Chairman McKEON and Ranking Member MILLER, as well as the leadership in both parties in working to move this resolution to the floor in such a bipartisan fashion.

This is a very important resolution because it supports the goals and ideal of National Entrepreneurship Week and encourages creation of entrepreneurship education programs in elementary and secondary schools. The future strength of our economy depends on our youth and upon developing new businesses, which essentially is what entrepreneurship is all about. From lawn mowing businesses to baby sitting, most youths have been entrepreneurs at one time or another. Unfortunately, formal entrepreneurial education is not always available to young people.

Several studies have been done on the interests that young people have in entrepreneurship. For example, in their book, "The E Generation: Prepared for the Entrepreneurial Economy," Marilyn Kourilsky and William Walstad explain that youth are overwhelmingly interested in entrepreneurship. In fact, they found that six out of 10 young people aspire to start a business of their own.

The Gallup Organization, in conjunction with the Kauffman Foundation, conducted the first national poll on entrepreneurship. What they found was that 70 percent of students polled wanted to start their own business.

□ 1430

Now, this would be primarily at the high school level. Yet only 44 percent had any basic knowledge concerning entrepreneurship. In other words, they wanted to start a business, but they had no idea as to how to do it.

Youth entrepreneurs provide added stimulus to the local economy. Student entrepreneurial endeavors help to foster youth retention by providing youth the opportunity to contribute and invest in their home communities. As young people build and grow businesses within a community, they are more likely to stay and invest in a community's future.

Where this has been tremendously important has been in rural areas. We have all seen many small towns that continue to unravel, lose young people, lose population, and in the district that I represent we have seen this graphically. So we find that probably the best way to revitalize rural America is to provide entrepreneurial training, entrepreneurial skills, so some people can stay there and survive and young people can start a business.

There are a number of academic reasons to integrate entrepreneurship training into curriculum as well. Entrepreneurship training can be successfully integrated into traditional course work by incorporating hands-on business activities in a traditional classroom and textbook instruction. For example, writing marketing materials, business plans, can improve English skills. Sales and accounting can improve math skills. Developing manufacturing processes for products can be incorporated in a science class. True entrepreneurial education integrates hands-on business developments into the school system.

So we find that it is possible to build entrepreneurial training into the curriculum in a school. And when this happens, some really good things begin to happen.

Entrepreneurship education has a positive effect on the academic performance of students according to a study conducted by Howard Rasheed, a business professor at the University of Florida. Students with entrepreneurship training scored better in a number of academic subjects, including reading, math, social studies, and language. Also, attendance improves, dropout rates decrease, and it also helps close the achievement gap between minority students and the rest of the student body. So there is a tremendous academic contribution that entrepreneurial training provides.

I have worked throughout my time in Congress to encourage Nebraska schools to adopt entrepreneurship programs, and many have. I am pleased to

have had the opportunity to be involved in numerous entrepreneurship efforts across the State of Nebraska, including NETFORCE, which is working to develop a curriculum that is sponsored through Nebraska's community college system.

H.R. 699 encourages more schools to adopt entrepreneurship programs and supports the goals of National Entrepreneurship Week. I strongly support this resolution and urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join with the gentleman from Nebraska in support of a resolution to support National Entrepreneurship Week. I rise in support of H. Res. 699 and thank Mr. PRICE of North Carolina for introducing this resolution.

H. Res. 699 calls on the President to issue a proclamation recognizing National Entrepreneurship Week and to encourage all levels of government to observe National Entrepreneurship Week annually with special events in support of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship education programs.

Entrepreneurship education has long been an integral part of career and technical education programs in high schools across the country. While students may have difficulties defining "entrepreneur," it is clear that, when surveyed, young people understand the concepts behind entrepreneurship and actively seek out similar opportunities.

According to the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education, entrepreneurship education programs are providing opportunities for young people to master competencies in concepts such as how to recognize opportunities, how to generate ideas and marshal resources in the face of risk, to pursue opportunities, venture creation and operation, and creativity as well as critical thinking.

Mr. Speaker, students who participate in entrepreneurship education learn not just the skills for making smart business decisions; they also learn how to become more involved in their community through civic engagement and participation. And as the resolution points out, students who participate in these programs have better attendance records, perform better on core subjects, and have lower dropout rates than those who do not participate in these programs.

Mr. Speaker, entrepreneurs represent one of the fastest growing business sectors in our global marketplace. The establishment of a week recognizing the role of entrepreneurs in our economy will continue to help inform young people about the opportunities for success in this global marketplace.

Again, I want to thank Mr. PRICE for introducing this important legislation, and I urge its support.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to yield the balance of my time to

Mr. DAVID PRICE, who introduced this resolution, from the great State of North Carolina.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I thank the gentleman for yielding, Mr. Speaker, and I rise in support of H. Res. 699, a resolution I sponsored with the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), and many other colleagues. The resolution supports the goals and ideals of National Entrepreneurship Week.

More than 70 percent of American high school students say they would like to open their own business someday. Over 10 percent of American adults are actively planning to become entrepreneurs in their local communities. These figures indicate the strong entrepreneurial inclination of many Americans. Yet while many people have an interest in starting a new business, only a fraction of these actually make the attempt.

Entrepreneurial education brings together the core academic, technical, and problem-solving skills needed for future entrepreneurs. Individuals who receive entrepreneurship training are not only more likely to start a business, but they are also more likely to enjoy success with such a new venture.

H. Res. 699 would support the goals and the ideals of National Entrepreneurship Week and the implementation of entrepreneurship education programs in elementary and secondary schools and in institutions of higher education. National Entrepreneurship Week would consist of a national series of celebrations, business plan competitions, and other community events to nurture entrepreneurship and to engage young people in the opportunities available to them as future business owners.

In short, Mr. Speaker, National Entrepreneurship Week offers the opportunity to recognize the societal contributions of America's leading entrepreneurs and to encourage those with a dream to become entrepreneurs.

I am fortunate to have several organizations in my home State of North Carolina that effectively promote entrepreneurship in varied ways. For example, the North Carolina Rural Center, the North Carolina Community College System, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are working together to develop a system of education for youth and adults that ensures anyone who seeks advice or assistance on starting a business gets the help they need.

The Small Business and Technology Development Centers and the SCORE program, run by retired executives, help new entrepreneurs translate their aspirations into reality. "Marketplace," a forum which I joined colleagues in starting years ago in the Triangle area of North Carolina, intro-

duces entrepreneurs to opportunities in government contracting.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Entrepreneurship Club is dedicated to encouraging entrepreneurship among students by connecting them with local entrepreneurs, professors, and support organizations. The North Carolina Center for 21st Century Skills is the first of its kind in the Nation to help elementary and secondary public school students acquire the knowledge and the skills needed for success in the global economy.

The Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education continues its work to make entrepreneurship education a formal part of the American curriculum in each school district and educational institution, and I want to commend the consortium for their leadership role in developing and promoting the resolution before us today.

I also want to thank Representatives TOM OSBORNE and DANNY DAVIS and their staffs, as well as the bipartisan staff of the Education and the Workforce Committee, for their contributions to this effort, this effort to call attention to the need for encouraging our young people to become entrepreneurs.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the gentleman from North Carolina and Mr. DAVIS, and as I have no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 699.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COMMENDING THE PEOPLE OF MONGOLIA ON THE 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONGOLIAN STATEHOOD

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 828) commending the people of Mongolia, on the 800th anniversary of Mongolian statehood, for building strong, democratic institutions, and expressing the support of the House of Representatives for efforts by the United States to continue to strengthen its partnership with that country.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 828

Whereas Mongolia, a great nation located at the crossroads of many civilizations, in 2006 marks its 800th anniversary as a state;

Whereas Mongolia has become a functioning democracy in Asia;

Whereas since 1990 the Mongolian people have held 5 parliamentary elections and 4 presidential elections;

Whereas these elections have been determined to be largely free and fair, without violence or balloting irregularities, and featuring multiple political parties;

Whereas these elections demonstrate Mongolia's commitment to the rule of law and its determination to consolidate its democratic progress;

Whereas the Government of Mongolia has conducted economic reforms which introduced market mechanisms and have resulted in the private sector producing the great majority of the gross domestic product, demonstrating Mongolia's commitment to the establishment of a free market economy;

Whereas Mongolia ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption in October 2005, demonstrating its determination to take steps to better ensure political and economic stability and progress;

Whereas Mongolia has sought to develop political, economic, and security relationships with its neighboring countries in order to enhance confidence and regional security;

Whereas the people of the United States and Mongolia share common commitments to democracy and freedom, and the Government of Mongolia has expressed its strong desire to deepen and strengthen its partnership with the United States;

Whereas Mongolia entered into a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement with the United States in 2004, demonstrating its commitment to take further steps to reform and open up its economy and to deepen bilateral economic ties;

Whereas Mongolia has been a steadfast partner with the United States in the Global War on Terror, and, after the September 11th terror attacks, the Government of Mongolia expressed its strong support for the United States;

Whereas Mongolia has supported coalition operations by repeatedly contributing troops to both Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas Mongolia has contributed troops to support NATO peacekeeping operations in Kosovo and to protect the United Nations war crimes court in Sierra Leone; and

Whereas Mongolia's strong policy track record has made it eligible for Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) support in 2004 and 2005; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the people and Government of Mongolia on the 800th anniversary of Mongolian statehood;

(2) affirms that the United States is proud to be considered Mongolia's "third neighbor";

(3) commends the people and Government of Mongolia for their commitment to democracy, freedom, and economic reform;

(4) urges the Government of Mongolia to take further steps to fight corruption and provide greater transparency and accountability in government operations;

(5) shares with the people and Government of Mongolia the desire to enhance the relationship between the United States and Mongolia, based on a comprehensive partnership, shared values, and common interests;

(6) supports efforts to strengthen strategic, political, economic, educational, and cultural ties between the 2 countries;

(7) encourages private investment and increased business ties between investors in both countries;

(8) encourages increased people-to-people ties through expanded academic, cultural, and sports exchanges, and

(9) supports increased Mongolian participation in international organizations and initiatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 828.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 828, commending the people of Mongolia on their 800th anniversary of Mongolian statehood which they are preparing to celebrate during the next month. Mongolia's storied history stretches back to the 13th century, when, beginning under the leadership of Genghis Khan, the Mongol Empire grew to become the largest contiguous land empire in world history.

However, the most important portions of this resolution are not those that recall the past, but those that point toward the future. In the eight recent centuries of Mongolian statehood, the past 16 years have perhaps been the most dramatic. In that short time, Mongolia has cemented its transition from a Soviet-era Communist state to a successful, multiparty, Asian democracy committed to economic reform. It has conducted five free and fair parliamentary elections and four presidential elections.

I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit Ulan Bator last fall as an election observer and to see firsthand the remarkable democratic and social progress that the Mongolian people have achieved. Mongolia represents a transitional model that merits study by other Asian nations, such as North Korea, who have not yet internalized the lessons of the 20th century.

In contrast to its history of constant military concerns, Mongolia today is a country committed to peace and international stability, whose foreign policy is informed by an admirable humanitarian impulse. It has repeatedly deployed troops in support of Coalition efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq, and it has supported NATO peacekeeping operations in Kosovo.

As befits two nations committed to democracy and freedom, the United States and Mongolia have enjoyed a deepening friendship, both on a government-to-government and a people-to-people basis. Our growing relationship encompasses not only security matters and development assistance, but also trade, with the U.S. and Mongolia having signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in 2004.

Although that great landlocked state is physically bordered only by China and Russia, the United States is proud to consider itself Mongolia's third neighbor on the basis of our shared val-

ues and common interests. This resolution is a welcome opportunity for the Congress to reaffirm our desire to strengthen the strategic, political, economic, educational, and cultural ties between our countries.

In closing, I would like to thank the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), and also the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) for his initiative in sponsoring this timely resolution, as well as the men and women of the Department of State for their judgment and guidance in assembling the final text.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1445

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to commend the distinguished chairman of the International Relations Committee, Mr. HYDE, and the senior ranking member, Mr. LANTOS, for their support of this legislation that was introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS).

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. The breakup of the Soviet empire in the early 1990s jolted the international political system and fundamentally changed the course of global history. More than a dozen new nations emerged from the ruins of the Soviet Union, stretching from the heart of Europe to deep in Central Asia.

While the dissolution of the Soviet Union greatly advanced the progress of democracy and human rights, this forward march was not without setbacks. Looking at the map today, half of the nations formerly within the Soviet orbit have truly embraced democracy, human rights and economic reform, while others continue to struggle with debilitating other totalitarian regimes.

Mr. Speaker, since their first steps towards freedom from the firm grasp of the Soviet Union in 1990, the Mongolian people have strongly embraced democracy and human rights. They took to the streets in the bitter cold to force the Mongolian Communist Party from power, and quickly replaced it with a democratically elected government.

Since 1990, Mongolia has held several rounds of free and fair elections for president and parliament. While the rapid development of democratic institutions has not been without growing pains, the government of Mongolia remains a strong and vibrant democracy which has sought to play a responsible role in the global community.

With a newly shared commitment to democracy, the bilateral relationship between the United States and Mongolia has flourished over the last decade and a half. Mongolia has contributed troops, engineers and medical personnel to Operation Iraqi Freedom, and



helped to train units of the Afghan National Army.

The United States has also provided over \$150 million in assistance to the Mongolia people since 1991. Mongolia is now eligible for funding from the Millennium Challenge Account, and it is our strong hope that a compact with Mongolia will be signed in the near future.

Ties between the United States and Mongolia were further solidified by visits to Mongolia in 2005 by the President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense.

The United States and Mongolia have also shared a commitment to working for freedom for the Tibetan people. As a Buddhist nation, Mongolia has twice welcomed His Holiness the Dalai Lama, despite enormous pressure from Beijing to prevent this from happening. Mongolia's willingness to resist China's strong-arm tactics demonstrates the nation's deep-seated commitment to human rights and religious freedom.

Mr. Speaker, since it emerged from the iron clutch of the Soviet Union in 1990, Mongolia has been a good friend and ally of our Nation. With passage of this resolution introduced by my good friend, Mr. PITTS, Congress will further signal its support for even stronger ties between our two nations.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 800th anniversary of Mongolian statehood. I am pleased that this body can play a small role in commemorating this important and significant anniversary in the lives of the people of Mongolia. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) who is the author of this resolution.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman LEACH for his leadership on this issue.

I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 828, a resolution that I authored with strong bipartisan support from the members of the International Relations Committee. And I thank the committee members for their support and I thank the House leadership for bringing it to the House floor today.

America has a long and proud tradition of standing with those who stand for freedom and democracy in the world, and that is why it is altogether appropriate that we recognize the people of Mongolia on the occasion of their 800th anniversary of statehood.

The history of Mongolia is a great testament to the power of freedom. Once a communist state closely allied with the Soviet Union, Mongolia has undergone remarkable changes in recent years. After peacefully severing communist ties in 1990, the people of Mongolia have established a stable democracy in Asia.

The reforms Mongolia has undertaken have set a shining example for its region of the world. In 1992, Mon-

golia adopted a Constitution. Five parliamentary elections and four presidential elections have now been held in Mongolia.

I personally became involved after the parliament heard of the Contract With America in 1994 and what happened here. In the mid-1990s, they created the Contract With the Mongolia Voter. They printed 400,000 copies, distributed it by horse and yak and camel all over the country. They had a 92 percent voter turnout and swept the existing then-communist government out of power. At that point I went over with others and gave a seminar to the young members of parliament. Over half were under the age of 35. It was an inspiring experience.

Mongolia has introduced economic reforms that reflect its commitment to establishing a free market economy. In the wake of September 11, 2001, the terrorist attacks, Mongolia has been a steadfast partner in the global war on terror. Mongolia has repeatedly sent troops to serve in the cause of freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan, six rotations in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are standing with us, and they have also made troop commitments to NATO to peacekeeping missions.

In an expression of our appreciation for their support, President Bush traveled to Mongolia last November, the first sitting American President ever to do so. During his visit, President Bush addressed the Mongolian people. He expressed the relationship and appreciation for the relationships our nations share. He said, "As you build a free society in the heart of Central Asia, the American people stand with you." We echo those sentiments today. By passing this bipartisan resolution, we send a clear message that this House stands firmly with the people of a free and democratic Mongolia.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for introducing this legislation. It was my personal privilege to know personally the previous ambassador of Mongolia to the United States, and I have known him for several years as he made every effort to establish a relationship between our two nations. Again, I commend my good friend from Pennsylvania for introducing this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 828, Recognizing the 800th Anniversary of Mongolian statehood. Mongolia has a strong commitment to democracy and the rule of law. I join the people of Mongolia in celebrating their 800th anniversary of statehood. Mongolia has a rich, storied ancient history. Its modern accomplishments contribute to that history and serve as an inspiration to all countries that struggle to adopt a democratic system of government.

The friendship shared by Mongolia and the United States has grown stronger as a result of Mongolia's strong commitment to democ-

racy and the rule of law at home and internationally. As this resolution notes, since 1990, five parliamentary and four presidential elections have been held in Mongolia, all without violence or disruption. This is a strong indicator that when the will of a nation's people is joined by the will of their government, there becomes a great capacity to achieve good.

Mongolian efforts to develop a free market society and a political democracy serve as an example of responsible government and progress for other developing democracies in the world today. The settlement of an \$11 billion debt to Russia in 2004 lifted a heavy burden from Mongolia and has been instrumental in allowing Mongolia to explore new outlets for economic development. There are currently over 30,000 private businesses in or around Mongolia's capital city of Ulaanbaatar. Petroleum, coal, and copper industries continue to be an economic mainstay for the people of Mongolia.

Mongolia is a valued security partner with the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Mongolia's steadfast commitment and valued contributions to Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, NATO missions in Kosovo and Sierra Leone, and its broader contribution to the Global War on Terror are evidence of its leadership on international security matters.

Mongolia continues to build upon its solid foundation for a democratic, prosperous and secure future for its people. I congratulate them on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of Mongolian statehood and on their continued political and economic development. Through passage of this resolution we express our confidence in them and our appreciation for the strong partnership enjoyed between the American and Mongolian peoples.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA for his wondrous comity on this and so many issues, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 828.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COMMEMORATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASCENSION TO THE THRONE OF HIS MAJESTY KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 409) commemorating the 60th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 409

Whereas on June 9, 1946, His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej ascended the throne and this year celebrates his 60th year as King of Thailand;

Whereas His Majesty King Bhumibol is the longest-serving monarch in the world;



Whereas on May 26, 2006, His Majesty King Bhumibol received the inaugural special Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award from the United Nations Development Agency for his dedication to social justice, growth with equity, human security, democratic governance, and sustainability;

Whereas during the reign of His Majesty King Bhumibol, Thailand has become a democratically governed constitutional democracy in which Thai citizens enjoy the right to change their government through periodic free and fair elections held on the basis of universal suffrage;

Whereas His Majesty King Bhumibol has enjoyed a special relationship with the United States, having been born in 1927 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where his father, Prince Mahidol of Songkla, was studying medicine at the Harvard Medical School;

Whereas the United States and Thailand have enjoyed over 170 years of friendship since the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce in 1833, the first such treaty signed between the United States and any Asian country;

Whereas the United States and Thailand are treaty allies, and on December 30, 2003, President George W. Bush designated the Kingdom of Thailand as a major non-NATO ally; and

Whereas the bonds of friendship and mutual respect are strong between the United States and Thailand: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),*

(1) commemorates the 60th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand;

(2) offers its sincere congratulations to His Majesty King Bhumibol and best wishes for continued prosperity to his Majesty and the Kingdom of Thailand; and

(3) looks forward to continued, enduring ties of friendship between the Thai and American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 409.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this timely resolution honoring Thailand's long-serving monarch, who commands enormous popular respect and moral authority among the Thai people.

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to our distinguished ranking member, Mr. LANTOS, as well as the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for their assistance and support in crafting this measure.

As many Members are aware, Thailand is one of America's oldest and closest allies. Formal diplomatic relations extend back to the signing of the

Treaty of Amity and Commerce between our two nations in 1833, during the Presidency of Andrew Jackson. Since then, Thailand has been a steadfast friend and ally. Thai King Mongkut offered President Lincoln elephants to use in battle during the Civil War, and Thai troops fought alongside American soldiers in World War I, Korea, and Vietnam. Since 9/11, Thailand has provided overflight rights and access to facilities to facilitate U.S. and coalition efforts in Afghanistan, sent an engineering battalion to help rebuild Bagram airfield, and deployed nearly 500 troops to provide reconstruction and medical assistance in Iraq. President Bush recognized the importance of our alliance when he designated Thailand as a major nonNATO ally in 2003.

Thailand and the United States also share robust commercial ties, with two-way trade totaling a little over \$21 billion and cumulative U.S. investment in Thailand of over \$20 billion. Our cultural and people-to-people ties are extensive and multifaceted, including more than 10,000 Thai students in institutions of learning in the United States. Indeed, our people-to-people ties even extend to His Majesty the King, who was born nearly 80 years ago in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where his father was studying medicine at the Harvard Medical School.

Our two people also forged common bonds during times of tragedy; Americans will never forget the astounding generosity of the Thai people in assisting foreign survivors of the terrible tsunami of 2004, despite suffering devastating losses of their own.

The tie that has been developed between the Thai people and the families from abroad who lost their fathers and mothers, sons and daughters while guests in Thailand during one of nature's most extraordinary acts, has solidified in mutual respect and humanitarian appreciation.

As a congressional visitor in the wake of the tsunami, I could not have been more impressed with the thoughtfulness of the Thai government, and the stories of Thai goodwill extended to those who lost their loved ones.

America and Thailand share many common vested interests and values, including a belief in democracy and human rights. Thailand enjoys a well-deserved reputation for tolerance, religious freedom and civil liberties. During the reign of the King, Thailand has become a democratically governed constitutional monarchy. Indeed, since 1992, there have been more than half a dozen national multiparty elections, which transferred power to successive governments through peaceful, democratic processes.

In this context, while the King has circumscribed constitutional powers, he also exerts strong informal influence, which he has used from time to time to resolve political disputes that jeopardize national stability.

In closing, I would note that the resolution before us is being amended to

reflect the fact that late last month, Secretary-General Kofi Annan presented the United Nations first Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award to the King, hailing the Thai monarch's efforts to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in his kingdom as an example for the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my dear colleague and chairman of the Asia Pacific Subcommittee on International Relations, the distinguished gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), for his authorship of this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, as the world's oldest democracy, the American Government rarely takes the time to mark important events in the lives of the world's few remaining monarchs. The key decisions affecting the livelihood of nations and the stability of the world system are made in the halls of parliaments and in the offices of presidents and prime ministers around the world.

But a handful of the world's monarchs continue to play a critically important role in the lives of their nations, and are worthy of our praise and admiration. The King of Thailand is just such a monarch.

As Thailand celebrates the 60th anniversary of the King's ascension to the throne, it is important to remember the King's many contributions to the prosperity and stability of our closest ally in Southeast Asia.

While Thailand is governed by democratically elected parliament and prime minister, the King has kept a firm hand on the tiller of the nation.

□ 1500

After a military coup in 1992 in which hundreds of Thai citizens were killed in the streets of Bangkok, the King summoned the general to a nationally televised audience. The Thai people watched as the general crawled across a carpet to the feet of the monarch where he was promptly upbraided for his actions which threatened the stability of the nation. The general promptly resigned and democracy was restored.

Just over the past few months the King again has played an important role in resolving a political crisis which had led to large street demonstrations in Bangkok. After strong words from the King, Thailand's judiciary moved to approve a new round of national elections in which all of the major political parties will participate.

The King's ability to influence the outcome of these two events is directly related to the enormous esteem in

which he is held by the good people of Thailand. The Thais, from all walks of life, greatly respect and admire the King and give much credence to his words as well as his actions.

Thailand's democratic development under the King's leadership has greatly enhanced U.S.-Thai relations. Our two nations remain treaty allies, and Thailand was designated as a major non-NATO ally in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, Thailand also made significant contributions to the reconstruction of Afghanistan and Iraq and has participated in many vital United Nations peacekeeping missions. Economic ties between the United States and Thailand have also grown significantly over the past decade.

With the passage of this resolution, Congress not only commemorates the 60th anniversary of the King's ascension to the throne, it also celebrates the strength of the U.S.-Thai relationship and Thailand's many contributions to regional and international security.

It has been my personal experience also, you know who your friends are, and I remember this as a Vietnam veteran, Thailand was there and stood with us.

It might also be of interest to our colleagues, it so happens that the number one golfer in the world's mother is from Thailand, Mr. Tiger Woods.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I know that our relationship between our two nations could not be closer. And again, I commend the gentleman from Iowa for introducing this resolution.

I also want to commend the chairman of our committee, Mr. HYDE, and our senior ranking member, Mr. LANTOS, for their support and leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 409, Commemorating the 60th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. This resolution honors His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, his accomplishments toward social justice, growth with equity, human security, democratic governance, and sustainability for his county and people, and the special relationship between the United States and Thailand.

King Adulyadej led Thailand as it adopted a democratic form of government. This is an important accomplishment and one that is greatly valued by the United States. Thailand's commitment to strengthening its democracy is representative of the shared values between the people of our two countries.

Also, Thailand's commitment to fighting terrorism in Asia and its cooperation in the Global War on Terror is further representative of the strong relationship between our governments. Further I commend King Adulyadej's dedication to social justice and human rights. That the United Nations is awarding him the Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award is representative of his leadership on these issues.

The people of Guam join in celebrating the 60th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. We look forward to

continued prosperity for both his Majesty and the people of Thailand. And it is my sincerest hope that the special relationship shared by our countries will grow stronger in the years to come.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 409, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1617

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 4 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put questions on which further proceedings were postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on H. Res. 842;

Adoption of H. Res. 842, if ordered;

Passage of H.R. 5521;

Suspending the rules and passing S. 193.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

## PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5254, REFINERY PERMIT PROCESS SCHEDULE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on House Resolution 842, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 220, nays 192, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 227]

YEAS—220

Aderholt	Gillmor	Osborne
Akin	Gingrey	Otter
Alexander	Goode	Oxley
Bachus	Goodlatte	Paul
Baker	Granger	Pearce
Barrett (SC)	Graves	Pence
Bartlett (MD)	Green (WI)	Peterson (PA)
Barton (TX)	Gutknecht	Petri
Bass	Hall	Pickering
Beauprez	Harris	Pitts
Biggert	Hart	Platts
Bilirakis	Hastings (WA)	Poe
Bishop (UT)	Hayes	Pombo
Blackburn	Hayworth	Porter
Blunt	Hefley	Price (GA)
Boehrlert	Hensarling	Pryce (OH)
Boehner	Herger	Putnam
Bonilla	Hobson	Radanovich
Bonner	Hoekstra	Ramstad
Boozman	Hostettler	Regula
Boustany	Hulshof	Rehberg
Bradley (NH)	Hunter	Reichert
Brady (TX)	Hyde	Renzi
Brown (SC)	Issa	Reynolds
Brown-Waite,	Istook	Rogers (AL)
Ginny	Jenkins	Rogers (KY)
Burgess	Jindal	Rogers (MI)
Burton (IN)	Johnson (CT)	Rohrabacher
Buyer	Johnson (IL)	Ros-Lehtinen
Calvert	Johnson, Sam	Royce
Camp (MI)	Jones (NC)	Ryan (WI)
Cannon	Kelly	Ryun (KS)
Cantor	Kennedy (MN)	Saxton
Capito	King (IA)	Schmidt
Carter	King (NY)	Schwarz (MI)
Castle	Kingston	Sensenbrenner
Chabot	Kirk	Shadegg
Chocola	Kline	Shaw
Coble	Knollenberg	Shays
Cole (OK)	Kolbe	Sherwood
Conaway	Kuhl (NY)	Shimkus
Crenshaw	LaHood	Shuster
Cubin	Latham	Simmons
Culberson	LaTourette	Simpson
Davis (KY)	Leach	Smith (NJ)
Davis, Jo Ann	Lewis (CA)	Smith (TX)
Davis, Tom	Lewis (KY)	Sodrel
Deal (GA)	Linder	Souder
Dent	LoBiondo	Stearns
Diaz-Balart, L.	Lucas	Sullivan
Diaz-Balart, M.	Lungren, Daniel	Sweeney
Doolittle	E.	Tancred
Drake	Mack	Taylor (NC)
Dreier	Marchant	Terry
Duncan	McCauley (TX)	Thomas
Ehlers	McCotter	Thornberry
Emerson	McCrery	Tiahrt
English (PA)	McHenry	Tiberi
Everett	McHugh	Turner
Feeney	McKeon	Upton
Ferguson	McMorris	Walden (OR)
Fitzpatrick (PA)	Mica	Walsh
Flake	Miller (FL)	Wamp
Foley	Miller (MI)	Weldon (FL)
Forbes	Miller, Gary	Weldon (PA)
Fortenberry	Moran (KS)	Weller
Fossella	Murphy	Westmoreland
Fox	Musgrave	Whitfield
Franks (AZ)	Myrick	Wicker
Frelinghuysen	Neugebauer	Wilson (NM)
Gallely	Ney	Wilson (SC)
Garrett (NJ)	Northup	Wolf
Gerlach	Norwood	Young (AK)
Gilchrest	Nunes	Young (FL)

NAYS—192

Abercrombie	Boswell	Cleaver
Ackerman	Boucher	Clyburn
Allen	Boyd	Conyers
Andrews	Brady (PA)	Cooper
Baca	Brown (OH)	Costa
Baird	Brown, Corrine	Costello
Baldwin	Butterfield	Cramer
Barrow	Capps	Crowley
Bean	Capuano	Cummings
Becerra	Cardin	Davis (AL)
Berkley	Cardoza	Davis (CA)
Berman	Carnahan	Davis (FL)
Berry	Carson	Davis (IL)
Bishop (GA)	Case	Davis (TN)
Blumenauer	Chandler	DeFazio
Boren	Clay	DeGette

Delahunt	Levin	Ross	Beauprez	Gutknecht	Pearce	Hinojosa	McKinney	Sanchez, Loretta
DeLauro	Lewis (GA)	Rothman	Biggert	Hall	Pence	Holden	McNulty	Sanders
Dicks	Lipinski	Roybal-Allard	Bilirakis	Harris	Peterson (PA)	Holt	Meehan	Schakowsky
Dingell	Lofgren, Zoe	Ruppersberger	Bishop (UT)	Hart	Petri	Honda	Meek (FL)	Schiff
Doggett	Lowey	Rush	Blackburn	Hastings (WA)	Pickering	Hooley	Meeks (NY)	Schwartz (PA)
Doyle	Lynch	Ryan (OH)	Blunt	Hayes	Pitts	Hoyer	Michaud	Scott (GA)
Edwards	Maloney	Sabo	Boehlert	Hayworth	Platts	Inslee	Millender-	Scott (VA)
Emanuel	Markey	Salazar	Boehner	Hefley	Poe	Israel	McDonald	Serrano
Engel	Marshall	Sánchez, Linda	Bonilla	Hensarling	Pombo	Jackson (IL)	Miller (NC)	Sherman
Eshoo	Matheson	T.	Bonner	Herger	Porter	Jackson-Lee	Mollohan	Skelton
Etheridge	Matsui	Sanchez, Loretta	Boozman	Hobson	Price (GA)	(TX)	Moore (KS)	Skelton
Evans	McCarthy	Sanders	Boustany	Hoekstra	Pryce (OH)	Jefferson	Moore (WI)	Smith (WA)
Farr	McCollum (MN)	Schakowsky	Bradley (NH)	Hostettler	Putnam	Johnson, E. B.	Moran (VA)	Snyder
Fattah	McDermott	Schiff	Brady (TX)	Hulshof	Radanovich	Jones (OH)	Murtha	Solis
Frank (MA)	McGovern	Schwartz (PA)	Brown (SC)	Hunter	Ramstad	Kanjorski	Nadler	Spratt
Gonzalez	McIntyre	Scott (GA)	Brown-Waite,	Hyde	Regula	Kaptur	Napolitano	Stark
Gordon	McKinney	Scott (VA)	Ginny	Issa	Rehberg	Kennedy (RI)	Neal (MA)	Strickland
Green, Al	McNulty	Serrano	Burgess	Istook	Reichert	Kildee	Obey	Stupak
Green, Gene	Meehan	Sherman	Burton (IN)	Jenkins	Renzi	Kilpatrick (MI)	Olver	Tanner
Grijalva	Meek (FL)	Skelton	Buyer	Jindal	Reynolds	Kind	Ortiz	Tauscher
Gutierrez	Meeks (NY)	Smith (WA)	Calvert	Johnson (CT)	Rogers (AL)	Kucinich	Owens	Taylor (MS)
Harman	Melancon	Snyder	Camp (MI)	Johnson (IL)	Rogers (KY)	Langevin	Pallone	Thompson (CA)
Hastings (FL)	Michaud	Solis	Cannon	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (MI)	Larsen (WA)	Pascarell	Thompson (MS)
Herse	Millender-	Spratt	Cantor	Jones (NC)	Rohrabacher	Larson (CT)	Pastor	Tierney
Higgins	McDonald	Stark	Capito	Kelly	Ros-Lehtinen	Lee	Payne	Towns
Hinche	Miller (NC)	Strickland	Carter	Kennedy (MN)	Royce	Levin	Pelosi	Udall (CO)
Hinojosa	Miller, George	Stupak	Castle	King (IA)	Ryan (WI)	Lewis (GA)	Peterson (MN)	Udall (NM)
Holden	Mollohan	Tanner	Chabot	King (NY)	Ryun (KS)	Lipinski	Pomeroy	Van Hollen
Holt	Moore (KS)	Tauscher	Chocola	Kingston	Saxton	Lofgren, Zoe	Price (NC)	Velázquez
Honda	Moore (WI)	Taylor (MS)	Coble	Kirk	Schmidt	Lowey	Rahall	Visclosky
Hooley	Moran (VA)	Thompson (CA)	Cole (OK)	Kline	Schwarz (MI)	Lynch	Rangel	Wasserman
Hoyer	Murtha	Thompson (MS)	Conaway	Knollenberg	Sensenbrenner	Maloney	Ross	Schultz
Inslee	Nadler	Tierney	Crenshaw	Kolbe	Shade	Markey	Rothman	Waters
Israel	Napolitano	Towns	Cubin	Kuhl (NY)	Shadegg	Marshall	Roybal-Allard	Watson
Jackson (IL)	Neal (MA)	Udall (CO)	Culberson	LaHood	Shaw	Matheson	Ruppersberger	Watt
Jefferson	Obey	Udall (NM)	Davis (KY)	Laatham	Shays	Matsui	Rush	Waxman
Johnson, E. B.	Olver	Van Hollen	Davis, Jo Ann	LaTourette	Sherwood	McCarthy	Ryan (OH)	Weiner
Jones (OH)	Ortiz	Velázquez	Davis, Tom	Leach	Shimkus	McCollum (MN)	Sabo	Wexler
Kanjorski	Owens	Visclosky	Deal (GA)	Lewis (CA)	Shuster	McDermott	Salazar	Wu
Kaptur	Pallone	Wasserman	Dent	Lewis (KY)	Simmons	McGovern	Sánchez, Linda	Wynn
Kennedy (RI)	Pascarell	Schultz	Diaz-Balart, L.	Linder	Simpson	McIntyre	T.	
Kildee	Pastor	Waters	Diaz-Balart, M.	LoBiondo	Smith (NJ)			
Kilpatrick (MI)	Payne	Watson	Doolittle	Lucas	Smith (TX)			
Kind	Pelosi	Watt	Drake	Lungren, Daniel	Soder			
Kucinich	Peterson (MN)	Waxman	Dreier	E.	Souder			
Langevin	Pomeroy	Weiner	Duncan	Mack	Sullivan			
Larsen (WA)	Price (NC)	Wexler	Ehlers	Marchant	Sweeney			
Larson (CT)	Rahall	Wu	Emerson	McCauley (TX)	Tancred			
Lee	Rangel	Wynn	English (PA)	McCotter	Taylor (NC)			
			Everett	McCrery	Terry			
			Feeney	McHenry	Thomas			
			Ferguson	McHugh	Thornberry			
			Fitzpatrick (PA)	McKeon	Tiaht			
			Flake	McMorris	Tiberi			
			Foley	Melancon	Turner			
			Forbes	Mica	Upton			
			Fortenberry	Miller (FL)	Walden (OR)			
			Fossella	Miller (MI)	Walsh			
			Fox	Miller, Gary	Wamp			
			Franks (AZ)	Moran (KS)	Weldon (FL)			
			Frelinghuysen	Murphy	Weldon (PA)			
			Gallegly	Musgrave	Weller			
			Garrett (NJ)	Myrick	Westmoreland			
			Gerlach	Neugebauer	Whitfield			
			Gilchrest	Ney	Wicker			
			Gillmor	Northup	Wilson (NM)			
			Gingrey	Norwood	Wilson (SC)			
			Goode	Nunes	Wolf			
			Goodlatte	Osborne	Young (AK)			
			Granger	Otter	Young (FL)			
			Graves	Oxley				
			Green (WI)	Paul				

## NOT VOTING—20

Bishop (NY)	Gibbons	Manzullo
Bono	Gohmert	Nussle
Campbell (CA)	Inglis (SC)	Oberstar
Cuellar	Jackson-Lee	Reyes
DeLay	(TX)	Sessions
Filner	Keller	Slaughter
Ford	Lantos	Woolsey

□ 1645

Mr. SPRATT changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 227, the previous question to H.R. 5254, I was in my Congressional District on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

## RECORDED VOTE

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 221, noes 192, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 228]

## AYES—221

Aderholt	Bachus	Bartlett (MD)
Akin	Baker	Barton (TX)
Alexander	Barrett (SC)	Bass

## NOES—192

Abercrombie	Cardin	DeLauro
Ackerman	Cardoza	Dicks
Allen	Carnahan	Dingell
Andrews	Carson	Doggett
Baca	Case	Doyle
Baird	Chandler	Edwards
Baldwin	Clay	Emanuel
Barrow	Cleaver	Engel
Bean	Clyburn	Eshoo
Becerra	Conyers	Etheridge
Berkley	Cooper	Evans
Berman	Costa	Farr
Berry	Costello	Fattah
Bishop (GA)	Cramer	Frank (MA)
Blumenauer	Crowley	Gonzalez
Boren	Cuellar	Gordon
Boswell	Cummings	Green, Al
Boucher	Davis (AL)	Green, Gene
Boyd	Davis (CA)	Grijalva
Brady (PA)	Davis (FL)	Gutierrez
Brown (OH)	Davis (IL)	Harman
Brown, Corrine	Davis (TN)	Hastings (FL)
Butterfield	DeFazio	Herse
Capps	DeGette	Higgins
Capuano	Delahunt	Hinche

## NOT VOTING—19

Bishop (NY)	Gohmert	Oberstar
Bono	Inglis (SC)	Reyes
Campbell (CA)	Keller	Sessions
DeLay	Lantos	Slaughter
Filner	Manzullo	Woolsey
Ford	Miller, George	
Gibbons	Nussle	

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1653

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 228, H. Res. 842, I was in my Congressional District on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the vote on passage of H.R. 5521, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 361, nays 53, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 229]

## YEAS—361

Abercrombie	Alexander	Bachus
Ackerman	Allen	Baird
Aderholt	Andrews	Baker
Akin	Baca	Baldwin

Barrett (SC)

Barton (TX)

Bass

Beauprez

Becerra

Berkley

Berman

Biggart

Bilirakis

Bishop (GA)

Bishop (UT)

Blackburn

Blumenauer

Blunt

Boehlert

Boehner

Bonilla

Bonner

Boozman

Boren

Boswell

Boucher

Boustany

Boyd

Bradley (NH)

Brady (PA)

Brady (TX)

Brown (OH)

Brown (SC)

Brown, Corrine

Burgess

Burton (IN)

Butterfield

Buyer

Calvert

Camp (MI)

Cannon

Cantor

Capito

Capps

Cardin

Cardoza

Carnahan

Carson

Carter

Case

Castle

Chabot

Chocola

Clay

Cleaver

Clyburn

Coble

Cole (OK)

Conaway

Conyers

Costa

Cramer

Crenshaw

Crowley

Cubin

Cuellar

Culberson

Cummings

Davis (AL)

Davis (CA)

Davis (FL)

Davis (IL)

Davis (KY)

Davis (TN)

Davis, Jo Ann

Davis, Tom

Deal (GA)

DeFazio

DeGette

DeLauro

Dent

Diaz-Balart, L.

Diaz-Balart, M.

Dicks

Dingell

Doolittle

Doyle

Drake

Dreier

Edwards

Ehlers

Emanuel

Emerson

Engel

English (PA)

Eshoo

Evans

Everett

Farr

Fattah

Feeney

Ferguson

Fitzpatrick (PA)

Foley

Forbes

Fortenberry

Fox

Frank (MA)

Franks (AZ)

Frelinghuysen

Galleghy

Garrett (NJ)

Gerlach

Gilchrest

Gillmor

Gingrey

Gonzalez

Goodlatte

Gordon

Granger

Green, Al

Grijalva

Gutierrez

Hall

Harman

Harris

Hart

Hastings (FL)

Hastings (WA)

Hayes

Herger

Higgins

Hinchey

Hinojosa

Hobson

Hoekstra

Holden

Holt

Honda

Hooley

Hoyer

Hunter

Hyde

Inslee

Israel

Issa

Istook

Jackson (IL)

Jackson-Lee

(TX)

Jefferson

Jenkins

Jindal

Johnson (CT)

Johnson (IL)

Johnson, E. B.

Johnson, Sam

Jones (OH)

Kanjorski

Kaptur

Kelly

Kennedy (RI)

Kildee

Kilpatrick (MI)

King (IA)

King (NY)

Kingston

Kirk

Kline

Knollenberg

Kolbe

Kucinich

Kuhl (NY)

LaHood

Langevin

Larsen (WA)

Larson (CT)

Latham

LaTourette

Leach

Lee

Levin

Lewis (CA)

Lewis (GA)

Lewis (KY)

Linder

Lipinski

LoBiondo

Lofgren, Zoe

Lowey

Lucas

Lungren, Daniel

E.

Lynch

Mack

Maloney

Marchant

Markey

Matsui

McCarthy

McCaul (TX)

McCollum (MN)

McCotter

McCrery

McDermott

McGovern

McHenry

McHugh

McIntyre

McKeon

McKinney

McMorris

McNulty

Meek (FL)

Meeks (NY)

Melancon

Mica

Michaud

Millender-

McDonald

Miller (FL)

Miller (MI)

Miller (NC)

Miller, Gary

Mollohan

Moore (KS)

Moore (WI)

Moran (VA)

Murphy

Murtha

Musgrave

Myrick

Nadler

Napolitano

Neal (MA)

Neugebauer

Ney

Northup

Nunes

Obey

Oliver

Ortiz

Osborne

Otter

Owens

Oxley

Pallone

Pascarell

Pastor

Payne

Pearce

Pelosi

Pence

Peterson (MN)

Peterson (PA)

Pickering

Pitts

Poe

Pombo

Porter

Price (NC)

Pryce (OH)

Putnam

Radanovich

Rahall

Rangel

Regula

Rehberg

Reichert

Renzi

Reynolds

Rogers (AL)

Rogers (KY)

Rogers (MI)

Rohrabacher

Ros-Lehtinen

Rothman

Roybal-Allard

Royce

Ruppersberger

Rush

Ryan (OH)

Ryan (WI)

Ryun (KS)

Sabo

Sanchez, Linda

T.

Sanchez, Loretta

Sanders

Saxton

Schakowsky

Schiff

Schmidt

Schwartz (PA)

Schwarz (MI)

Scott (GA)

Scott (VA)

Serrano

Shaw

Sherman

Sherwood

Shuster

Simmons

Simpson

Skelton

Smith (NJ)

Smith (TX)

Smith (WA)

Snyder

Sodrel

Solis

Souder

Spratt

Stark

Strickland

Stupak

Sullivan

Sweeney

Tancred

Tauscher

Taylor (NC)

Terry

Thomas

Thompson (CA)

Thompson (MS)

Thornberry

Tiahrt

Tiberi

Towns

Turner

Udall (NM)

Upton

Van Hollen

Velázquez

Visclosky

Walden (OR)

Walsh

Wamp

Wasserman

Schultz

Waters

Watson

Watt

Waxman

Weiner

Weldon (FL)

Weldon (PA)

Weller

Westmoreland

Wexler

Whitfield

Wicker

Wilson (NM)

Wilson (SC)

Wolf

Wynn

Young (AK)

Young (FL)

Doggett

Doolittle

Doyle

Drake

Dreier

Duncan

Edwards

Ehlers

Emanuel

Emerson

Engel

English (PA)

Eshoo

Etheridge

Evans

Everett

Farr

Fattah

Feeney

Ferguson

Fitzpatrick (PA)

Kirk

Kline

Knollenberg

Kolbe

Kuhl (NY)

LaHood

Langevin

Larsen (WA)

Larson (CT)

Latham

LaTourette

Leach

Levin

Lewis (CA)

Lewis (GA)

Lewis (KY)

Lipinski

LoBiondo

Lowey

Lucas

Lungren, Daniel

E.

Lynch

Mack

Maloney

Marchant

Markey

Marshall

Matheson

Matsui

McCarthy

McCaul (TX)

McCollum (MN)

McCotter

McCrery

McGovern

McHenry

McNulty

Meek (FL)

Meeks (NY)

Melancon

Mica

Michaud

Millender-

McDonald

Miller (FL)

Miller (MI)

Miller (NC)

Miller, Gary

Mollohan

Moore (KS)

Moore (WI)

Moran (VA)

Murphy

Murtha

Musgrave

Myrick

Napolitano

Neal (MA)

Neugebauer

Ney

Northup

Norwood

Nunes

Obey

Ortiz

Osborne

Otter

Owens

Pallone

Pascarell

Pastor

Pearce

Pelosi

Pence

Peterson (MN)

Peterson (PA)

Petri

Pickering

Pitts

Platts

Poe

Pombo

Pomeroy

Porter

Price (GA)

Barrett (SC)

Barton (TX)

Bass

Beauprez

Becerra

Berkley

Berman

Biggart

Bilirakis

Bishop (GA)

Bishop (UT)

Blackburn

Blumenauer

Blunt

Boehlert

Boehner

Bonilla

Bonner

Boozman

Boren

Boswell

Boucher

Boustany

Boyd

Bradley (NH)

Brady (PA)

Brady (TX)

Brown (OH)

Brown (SC)

Brown, Corrine

Burgess

Burton (IN)

Butterfield

Buyer

Calvert

Camp (MI)

Cannon

Cantor

Capito

Capps

Cardin

Cardoza

Carnahan

Carson

Carter

Case

Castle

Chabot

Chocola

Clay

Cleaver

Clyburn

Coble

Cole (OK)

Conaway

Conyers

Costa

Cramer

Crenshaw

Crowley

Cubin

Cuellar

Culberson

Cummings

Davis (AL)

Davis (CA)

Davis (FL)

Davis (IL)

Davis (KY)

Davis (TN)

Davis, Jo Ann

Davis, Tom

Deal (GA)

DeFazio

DeGette

DeLauro

Dent

Diaz-Balart, L.

Diaz-Balart, M.

Dicks

Dingell

Doolittle

Doyle

Drake

Dreier

Edwards

Ehlers

Emanuel

Emerson

Engel

English (PA)

Eshoo

Evans

Everett

Farr

Fattah

Feeney

Ferguson

Fitzpatrick (PA)

Foley

Forbes

Fortenberry

Fox

Frank (MA)

Franks (AZ)

Frelinghuysen

Galleghy

Garrett (NJ)

Gerlach

Gilchrest

Gillmor

Gingrey

Gonzalez

Goodlatte

Gordon

Granger

Green, Al

Grijalva

Gutierrez

Hall

Harman

Harris

Hart

Hastings (FL)

Hastings (WA)

Hayes

Herger

Higgins

Hinchey

Hinojosa

Hobson

Hoekstra

Holden

Holt

Hooley

Hoyer

Hunter

Hyde

Inslee

Israel

Issa

Istook

Jackson (IL)

Jackson-Lee

(TX)

Jefferson

Jenkins

Jindal

Johnson (CT)

Johnson (IL)

Johnson, E. B.

Johnson, Sam

Jones (NC)

Jones (OH)

Kanjorski

Kaptur

Kelly

Kennedy (MN)

Kennedy (RI)

Kildee

Kilpatrick (MI)

King (IA)

King (NY)

Kingston

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Price (NC)	Schwarz (MI)	Thompson (MS)
Pryce (OH)	Scott (GA)	Thornberry
Putnam	Sensenbrenner	Tiahrt
Radanovich	Shadegg	Tiberi
Rahall	Shaw	Tierney
Ramstad	Shays	Towns
Rangel	Sherwood	Turner
Regula	Shimkus	Udall (CO)
Rehberg	Shuster	Udall (NM)
Reichert	Simpson	Upton
Renzi	Skelton	Van Hollen
Reynolds	Smith (NJ)	Velázquez
Rogers (AL)	Smith (TX)	Visclosky
Rogers (KY)	Smith (WA)	Walden (OR)
Rogers (MI)	Snyder	Walsh
Rohrabacher	Sodrel	Wamp
Ros-Lehtinen	Solis	Weiner
Ross	Souder	Weldon (FL)
Rothman	Spratt	Weldon (PA)
Roybal-Allard	Stearns	Weller
Royce	Strickland	Westmoreland
Ruppersberger	Stupak	Wexler
Rush	Sullivan	Whitfield
Ryan (OH)	Sweeney	Wicker
Ryan (WI)	Tancredo	Wilson (NM)
Ryun (KS)	Tanner	Wilson (SC)
Salazar	Tauscher	Wolf
Sanchez, Loretta	Taylor (MS)	Wu
Saxton	Taylor (NC)	Wynn
Schiff	Terry	Young (AK)
Schmidt	Thomas	Young (FL)
Schwartz (PA)	Thompson (CA)	

## NAYS—35

Abercrombie	Honda	Schakowsky
Baird	Kucinich	Scott (VA)
Becerra	Lee	Serrano
Berkley	Lofgren, Zoe	Sherman
Berman	McDermott	Stark
Blumenauer	Nadler	Wasserman
Clay	Olver	Schultz
Conyers	Paul	Waters
Delahunt	Payne	Watson
Frank (MA)	Sabo	Watt
Grijalva	Sánchez, Linda	Waxman
Harman	T.	
Hinchey	Sanders	

## NOT VOTING—18

Bishop (NY)	Gohmert	Oberstar
Bono	Inglis (SC)	Reyes
Campbell (CA)	Keller	Sessions
Filner	Lantos	Simmons
Ford	Manzullo	Slaughter
Gibbons	Nussle	Woolsey

□ 1709

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 230, final passage of S. 193, I was in my Congressional District on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 230 on S. 193, my vote was mistakenly recorded as "aye" when it should have said "nay."

## REFINERY PERMIT PROCESS SCHEDULE ACT

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 842, I call up the bill (H.R. 5254) to set schedules for the consideration of permits for refineries, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5254

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act".

## SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(2) the term "applicant" means a person who is seeking a Federal refinery authorization;

(3) the term "biomass" has the meaning given that term in section 932(a)(1) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005;

(4) the term "Federal refinery authorization"—

(A) means any authorization required under Federal law, whether administered by a Federal or State administrative agency or official, with respect to siting, construction, expansion, or operation of a refinery; and

(B) includes any permits, licenses, special use authorizations, certifications, opinions, or other approvals required under Federal law with respect to siting, construction, expansion, or operation of a refinery;

(5) the term "refinery" means—

(A) a facility designed and operated to receive, load, unload, store, transport, process, and refine crude oil by any chemical or physical process, including distillation, fluid catalytic cracking, hydrocracking, coking, alkylation, etherification, polymerization, catalytic reforming, isomerization, hydrotreating, blending, and any combination thereof, in order to produce gasoline or distillate;

(B) a facility designed and operated to receive, load, unload, store, transport, process, and refine coal by any chemical or physical process, including liquefaction, in order to produce gasoline or diesel as its primary output; or

(C) a facility designed and operated to receive, load, unload, store, transport, process (including biochemical, photochemical, and biotechnology processes), and refine biomass in order to produce biofuel; and

(6) the term "State" means a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

## SEC. 3. STATE ASSISTANCE.

(a) STATE ASSISTANCE.—At the request of a governor of a State, the Administrator is authorized to provide financial assistance to that State to facilitate the hiring of additional personnel to assist the State with expertise in fields relevant to consideration of Federal refinery authorizations.

(b) OTHER ASSISTANCE.—At the request of a governor of a State, a Federal agency responsible for a Federal refinery authorization shall provide technical, legal, or other nonfinancial assistance to that State to facilitate its consideration of Federal refinery authorizations.

## SEC. 4. REFINERY PROCESS COORDINATION AND PROCEDURES.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF FEDERAL COORDINATOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint a Federal coordinator to perform the responsibilities assigned to the Federal coordinator under this Act.

(2) OTHER AGENCIES.—Each Federal and State agency or official required to provide a Federal refinery authorization shall cooperate with the Federal coordinator.

(b) FEDERAL REFINERY AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) MEETING PARTICIPANTS.—Not later than 30 days after receiving a notification from an applicant that the applicant is seeking a

Federal refinery authorization pursuant to Federal law, the Federal coordinator appointed under subsection (a) shall convene a meeting of representatives from all Federal and State agencies responsible for a Federal refinery authorization with respect to the refinery. The governor of a State shall identify each agency of that State that is responsible for a Federal refinery authorization with respect to that refinery.

(2) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—(A) Not later than 90 days after receipt of a notification described in paragraph (1), the Federal coordinator and the other participants at a meeting convened under paragraph (1) shall establish a memorandum of agreement setting forth the most expeditious coordinated schedule possible for completion of all Federal refinery authorizations with respect to the refinery, consistent with the full substantive and procedural review required by Federal law. If a Federal or State agency responsible for a Federal refinery authorization with respect to the refinery is not represented at such meeting, the Federal coordinator shall ensure that the schedule accommodates those Federal refinery authorizations, consistent with Federal law. In the event of conflict among Federal refinery authorization scheduling requirements, the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency shall be given priority.

(B) Not later than 15 days after completing the memorandum of agreement, the Federal coordinator shall publish the memorandum of agreement in the Federal Register.

(C) The Federal coordinator shall ensure that all parties to the memorandum of agreement are working in good faith to carry out the memorandum of agreement, and shall facilitate the maintenance of the schedule established therein.

(c) CONSOLIDATED RECORD.—The Federal coordinator shall, with the cooperation of Federal and State administrative agencies and officials, maintain a complete consolidated record of all decisions made or actions taken by the Federal coordinator or by a Federal administrative agency or officer (or State administrative agency or officer acting under delegated Federal authority) with respect to any Federal refinery authorization. Such record shall be the record for judicial review under subsection (d) of decisions made or actions taken by Federal and State administrative agencies and officials, except that, if the Court determines that the record does not contain sufficient information, the Court may remand the proceeding to the Federal coordinator for further development of the consolidated record.

(d) REMEDIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States District Court for the district in which the proposed refinery is located shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any civil action for the review of the failure of an agency or official to act on a Federal refinery authorization in accordance with the schedule established pursuant to the memorandum of agreement.

(2) STANDING.—If an applicant or a party to a memorandum of agreement alleges that a failure to act described in paragraph (1) has occurred and that such failure to act would jeopardize timely completion of the entire schedule as established in the memorandum of agreement, such applicant or other party may bring a cause of action under this subsection.

(3) COURT ACTION.—If an action is brought under paragraph (2), the Court shall review whether the parties to the memorandum of agreement have been acting in good faith, whether the applicant has been cooperating fully with the agencies that are responsible for issuing a Federal refinery authorization, and any other relevant materials in the consolidated record. Taking into consideration

those factors, if the Court finds that a failure to act described in paragraph (1) has occurred, and that such failure to act would jeopardize timely completion of the entire schedule as established in the memorandum of agreement, the Court shall establish a new schedule that is the most expeditious coordinated schedule possible for completion of proceedings, consistent with the full substantive and procedural review required by Federal law. The court may issue orders to enforce any schedule it establishes under this paragraph.

(4) **FEDERAL COORDINATOR'S ACTION.**—When any civil action is brought under this subsection, the Federal coordinator shall immediately file with the Court the consolidated record compiled by the Federal coordinator pursuant to subsection (c).

(5) **EXPEDITED REVIEW.**—The Court shall set any civil action brought under this subsection for expedited consideration.

#### SEC. 5. DESIGNATION OF CLOSED MILITARY BASES.

(a) **DESIGNATION REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall designate no less than 3 closed military installations, or portions thereof, as potentially suitable for the construction of a refinery. At least 1 such site shall be designated as potentially suitable for construction of a refinery to refine biomass in order to produce biofuel.

(b) **REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**—The redevelopment authority for each installation designated under subsection (a), in preparing or revising the redevelopment plan for the installation, shall consider the feasibility and practicability of siting a refinery on the installation.

(c) **MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF REAL PROPERTY.**—The Secretary of Defense, in managing and disposing of real property at an installation designated under subsection (a) pursuant to the base closure law applicable to the installation, shall give substantial deference to the recommendations of the redevelopment authority, as contained in the redevelopment plan for the installation, regarding the siting of a refinery on the installation. The management and disposal of real property at a closed military installation or portion thereof found to be suitable for the siting of a refinery under subsection (a) shall be carried out in the manner provided by the base closure law applicable to the installation.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section—

(1) the term “base closure law” means the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note) and title II of the Defense Authorization Amendments and Base Closure and Realignment Act (Public Law 100–526; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note); and

(2) the term “closed military installation” means a military installation closed or approved for closure pursuant to a base closure law.

#### SEC. 6. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the application of any environmental or other law, or to prevent any party from bringing a cause of action under any environmental or other law, including citizen suits.

#### SEC. 7. REFINERY REVITALIZATION REPEAL.

Subtitle H of title III of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the items relating thereto in the table of contents of such Act are repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to House Resolution 842, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) and the gentleman from

Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 5254.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 6 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, today's bill is part of an overall set of actions by this body to deal with long-term energy security issues in our country. The message that we hear from home is, America needs American energy. One part of that need is for more domestic refining capacity. Witness after witness at a number of our hearings in the Energy and Commerce Committee have told us so.

Every emergency on energy has found us with less and less refinery capacity to refine fuel, and now there is absolutely none to spare here in the United States. Without more refinery capacity domestically, prices are squeezed ever upward. We are relying more and more on imported refined products as well as imported crude oil.

Why isn't there more domestic capacity? Why haven't there been any new refineries in this country built in the last 30 years? One reason is surely regulatory uncertainty caused by the bureaucratic delays in the current permitting process. H.R. 5254 addresses that problem head on, while preserving every single existing statute providing for environmental protection and opportunity for public participation. Every one.

Let me read that again. H.R. 5254 addresses that problem head on, while preserving every single existing statute providing for environmental protection and opportunity for public participation. Every one. Not one of those statutes is repealed or modified.

What H.R. 5254 does do is set up a Federal coordinator who convenes all officials, State, local and Federal, responsible for the permits for a proposed refinery. Working as one team, the agencies will integrate their action schedules and the process should move forward expeditiously.

What role would a State play in this process? The bill provides that the Governor of the State where the refinery would be sited designates the State officials to participate in the scheduling coordination. If the Governor of a State decides not to appoint any State officials, nothing in this act can compel the State officials to participate in the effort. The Federal coordinator will simply have to take that lack of State participation into account in scheduling the remaining actions of Federal permitting officials.

But if there is no State participation in that State, the process will not go

forward. Unless the State official is designated by his Governor or her Governor, they cannot participate in the agreement. Unless the Governor signs on, the State agencies cannot be subject to a court order to stay on schedule. That is how the Governor of any State where a proposed refinery would be located reserves the option of participating or not participating in the process.

I would encourage any conference committee on this bill to further clarify that the Governor has the option in the beginning to opt into the process, instead of in the middle of it or at the end of it not to participate.

□ 1715

That is something that we reserve for a conference with the Senate. For Federal energy officials, however, the process is not optional once the request is made for the Federal coordinator to help.

Here, Mr. Speaker, I do acknowledge the work of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) on this issue.

The gentleman from Virginia spoke on this issue when the bill was brought up under suspension last month. Following that debate, with the cooperation of the House majority leadership, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. HALL, Mr. BOUCHER and I did try to get together to explore common ground on this and other refinery issues.

Mr. Speaker, we did not reach resolution in time to incorporate some of our negotiations in the new language in this bill, but I still look forward, as we go to conference with the Senate continuing that dialogue in this context and perhaps bringing others into the dialogue as well.

Mr. Speaker, a separate provision in the bill before us today calls on the President to designate three or more closed military installations as potentially suitable for the construction of a refinery. Why is this provision in the bill? Because we know of communities with closed bases that are interested in siting a refinery.

We also know that the President of the United States is interested in this provision, he has spoken to me about it personally. They feel that the designation by the President would boost their chances of getting the attention of potential commercial developers. We also recognize that not every community with a closed base may want a refinery.

Nothing in this bill increases the likelihood that a community that does not want a refinery on a closed base will get one. Why? There are at least two reasons. The bill only encourages the local redevelopment authorities to consider the feasibility and practicality of siting the refinery. There is no requirement that they accept it.

Despite what you may hear in the debate, that decision is left up to the community. The Secretary of Defense is required to give substantial deference to the recommendation of the

redevelopment authority to site or not site a refinery on a closed military base, explicitly preserving existing law.

Mr. Speaker, this debate is about our Nation's energy security. I want to commend the leadership of this body for bringing the bill in a timely fashion to the floor and expediting the bill. Mr. Speaker, there are those who believe we have already run out of resources and ideas.

They say that we are all together in this, that we will just have to learn how to make do with less. Today they urge us to do nothing. I do not accept that. We have a refinery need in this country for 21 million barrels per day. We have a refinery capacity for approximately 17 million barrels a day. Subtract 17 from 21, you get 4 million barrels.

Mr. Speaker, we can certainly find the political will to come together to make it possible to reform the permitting process so that it might be possible to add to some existing refineries, and, yes for heavens sake, maybe even build one or two new ones.

That is what this bill is all about. It has passed the House floor once under suspension of the rules, but it did not get the two-thirds vote. I am hopeful today that we will get a majority vote and send this to the other body so we can work with them when they report a similar bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the bill that is before the House and urge its rejection. The refinery bill today makes its second appearance on the House floor in recent weeks. It was essentially the same bill that was rejected by the House in May.

Since the bill's last appearance on the floor, a serious effort has been made by the bipartisan leadership of the Energy and Commerce Committee to find common ground between our position and the Republican position. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), who chairs the full Energy and Commerce Committee for his good faith effort to produce a bipartisan bill.

I also want to thank the chairman of the Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee, Mr. HALL, and the ranking Democrat on the full committee, Mr. DINGELL, for the time that they invested in seeking a bipartisan compromise.

Unfortunately, the differences between the Republican position and our position were simply too great, and the consensus bill could not be produced.

While I commend the effort made by Mr. BARTON and Mr. HALL to work with us in trying to produce a balanced measure that we all today could support, I must express disappointment that the Republican House leadership chose to disallow all amendments on the refinery bill that we are debating on the floor today.

The bill should have been structured in such a way as to provide an opportunity to consider our Democratic substitute, which would make a genuine difference in relieving the Nation's shortage of refinery capacity.

While I will argue the merits of our more meaningful approach during today's debate, we are now relegated to offering our alternative in what is known as a motion to recommit, a procedure at the end of the formal debate that does not offer a full opportunity for the House to consider, in normal order, our proposal.

There is broad agreement that we have a shortage of refinery capacity in the United States today. The gentleman from Texas acknowledged that in his comments as well. There are simply not enough refineries in the Nation to produce the gasoline, the diesel fuel and the other refined products that we consume in the United States on a daily basis.

In fact, of the 20 million barrels we consume each day, more than 2 million barrels of refined product are imported each day. During times of emergency, such as a hurricane that might disable some of our refining capacity, we have no margin for error since we are not even meeting our own daily demand with U.S.-based refineries, we are in a highly vulnerable position whenever part of our already limited refinery capacity is disrupted.

When that happens, we have to import even more refined product. And we have to do it on very short notice. Arranging to buy the refined product overseas, scheduling delivery of that product to the United States, and then waiting on those shipments to arrive are all time consuming and all occur at a time when because of the hurricane, refinery fire or earthquake or other emergency, we simply do not have enough refined product to meet current demand.

The inevitable result is a huge spike in gasoline prices. That is exactly what happened in the weeks after Hurricane Katrina. And until we add more refinery capacity, that is what will happen every time in the future we have a disaster that takes down some of our limited refining capacity.

On this much, Republicans and Democrats agree. To promote our energy security and to protect Americans from future gasoline price spikes, we need to build more refineries in the United States. The disagreement that we have is over the best means to ensure that they are built.

The Republican bill now before the House is simply not the answer. It weakens State environmental protection processes and procedures while doing virtually nothing to assure that new refineries are, in fact, built. The bill before us repeals the law requiring the States and the Federal Government to work together to set deadlines and streamline the process for issuing permits for new refinery construction.

That new requirement became law just last August in the Energy Policy

Act of 2005. Instead of repealing it, we should be giving it a chance to work. Let us see if those provisions are satisfactory. And if they are, perhaps that could resolve the need.

The bill before us adds a new layer of Federal bureaucracy by creating a Federal coordinator to oversee State-permitting actions, and States would be mandated to meet a Federal schedule for issuing refinery construction permits.

States that have legitimate environmental concerns would find their normal review processes short circuited under a mandated Federal schedule for permit issuance.

And the bill proceeds from a deeply flawed assumption that the reason that we have a refinery shortage is burdensome State permitting processes. The real reason we do not have enough refineries is the economic interests of the refiners, not environmental constraints.

Between September of 2004 and September of 2005, the Nation's refiners enjoyed a 255 percent profit increase. When you are doing that well, why change anything? Why make added investments in new refineries when the status quo grants you with a 255 percent profit increase?

By interfering with State environmental permitting, the Republican bill is truly a solution in search of a problem, and it ignores the real problem. The oil companies themselves have told us that environmental regulations are simply not the problem.

Here is what the oil company CEOs have said about regulations governing their refining siting process. Last November, the CEO of Shell testified to the Congress, "We are not aware of any environmental regulations that have prevented us from expanding refinery capacity or siting a new refinery."

Conoco's CEO testified, "At this time, we are not aware of any projects that have been directly prevented as a result of any specific Federal or State regulation."

The record before the Congress is clear. It is devoid of any evidence that environmental permitting has delayed or prevented the construction of new refineries. In fact, the record clearly shows that environmental permitting is simply not a problem.

And yet, this bill weakens environmental permitting. It is the wrong answer for the problem that we face. Mr. Speaker, there is a right answer. Decades ago, our Nation created the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to resolve, with regard to crude oil, the very same problem that we are now having with regard to the refining of gasoline.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve has proven to be an excellent shock absorber, guarding our Nation against price spikes occasioned by disruptions in crude oil deliveries. It works exactly as it was designed to function.

Our Democratic proposal is to extend this proven and successful model to solve the problem we now face with a



shortage of refinery capacity. We propose the creation of a Strategic Refinery Reserve patterned on the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. In normal times the refineries that comprise the reserve would produce gasoline and other products for the government fleet, including the U.S. Department of Defense.

This step would enhance our national security. Refineries would not operate at full capacity during these normal times. During times of emergency, the refineries would sell gasoline into the commercial market, protecting the American public from gasoline price spikes should some of the U.S. refining capacity be shut down.

This sensible alternative, which the rule earlier adopted precludes us from offering as a substitute, would be an effective means of solving the problem which simply must be addressed.

I urge, Mr. Speaker, that the Republican bill be rejected and that the House adopt our Democratic motion which will be offered at the end of debate today, and that motion will contain the very sensible and, I think, effective Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5254. This bill recognizes the need for increased supplies of refined petroleum products, and takes the necessary steps to increase our refining capacity.

No new refinery has been constructed in the United States since 1976. Yet the demand for gasoline exceeds domestic production by an average of 4 million barrels per day. This was made worse in the aftermath of the most recent hurricanes.

This growing gap must be met by importing refined petroleum products from foreign sources. Refining capacity is not being increased due to, in part, a permitting process that is overly cumbersome and capital intensive.

This bill makes the necessary commitments to expand and diversify the refining industry in this country. By reforming and expediting a permitting process that is excessively slow and nearly impossible to navigate, we will enable refiners to meet the energy needs of America's citizens.

These facilities must still meet the strictest environmental standards under current law. It does not allow any agency or facility to short-circuit environmental compliance.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons I support this bill and urge its passage.

□ 1730

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK).

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, for a second time this year the Republicans are attempting to move legislation that would significantly alter Federal law regarding the refinery permitting proc-

ess without a committee hearing, without a markup, without even allowing the bill to be amended on the floor. This bill is a rerun of the Gasoline for America's Security Act, the GAS Act, which was only approved by the House by two votes after the Republican leadership twisted arms and held the vote open for 45 minutes.

The GAS Act was a bad bill then and this is a bad bill now. While proponents contend that the oil companies are unable to improve their refinery capacity because of excessive regulation, the truth is oil companies have intentionally reduced domestic refining capacity to drive up gas prices.

I have here three memos, from Chevron, from Mobil, from Texaco, all specifically advocating that these companies, these refineries, limit their refinery capacity to drive up the price for gasoline for America. From September 2004 to September 2005 the refineries' profits increased by 255 percent. During the first quarter of 2006 Valero Energy Company, the largest refiner in the United States, recorded profits 60 percent higher than last year. Obviously, complying with Federal regulation does not present these companies with a significant financial hardship or hardship to put forth refining.

By pushing refinery legislation through the House without any hearings, debate or amendments, we are doing the American people a great disservice. I encourage my Republican colleagues to address real legislation that can help the consumer at the pump rather than legislation that provides additional handouts and free rides for their friends in the oil industry.

I urge a "no" vote on H.R. 5254.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), a distinguished member of the full Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, you know the bill on the floor today really should be an easy vote for every single Member of this House. And I think it is important to note that there are those that are a part of the body who keep complaining about high gas prices, but then they are going to turn around and vote against legislation like this repeatedly. As we have brought solutions and action items to the floor, they have chosen to cast a "no" vote.

The facts are pretty clear on this. We had 324 refineries in 1981. Today we have 148. We have not built a new refinery in the country since 1976. We have talked about refinery utilization already in this discussion today. It is running confidently over 90 percent and recently as high as 98 percent. That means one more hurricane in a region packed with refineries is a big problem. This is something that we need to recognize; certainly this leadership and this committee does, and we hope other Members do, too. All of these statistics end up meaning higher gas prices for our constituents when they go to the pump.

What will it take for Members across the aisle to do more than just complain? They didn't like the GAS Act last year because of environmental concerns. Now the bill we have on the floor today does not touch those existing environmental rules. All that is spelled out in section 6 of this bill. There are those protections. They are there still. We are not getting cooperation on this issue, and at some point we have to conclude that Members who vote "no" over and over repeatedly on energy legislation are simply telling their constituents to get over it and live with higher gas prices.

We have had multiple hearings on the gas prices. We have had multiple hearings on this issue. Our constituents are ready for some action. We have heard from experts in the field that this bill will help. I urge Members to vote in favor of the bill.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY).

Mr. MARKEY. I thank the gentleman from Virginia and I thank him for his leadership on this issue.

Let me begin by saying that I have been in Congress for 30 years now and served on the Energy Committee for 30 years, and this is absolutely the worst energy bill I have seen since the refinery bill the House defeated just over 1 month ago. In fact, it is the same exact bill risen from the grave like some horror movie monstrosity to haunt this House and our country once again.

This bill also comes to us, just 10 months ago, as I said, when President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 into law. That bill contained a refinery siting provision. Those provisions were praised at the time by the Republican leadership and the President who claimed that it promotes greater refinery capacity, so more gasoline will be on the market, and it increases gasoline supply by putting an end to the proliferation of boutique fuels. That is 10 months ago, on the greatest energy bill that America had seen in a decade.

But now less than a year after the House passed and the President signed the Republican energy bill into law, as people are screaming at the pumps, as they are being tipped upside down and money is being shaken out of their pockets, as the American people realize that the Republican Party has allowed OPEC and the oil industry to take advantage of every single consumer across the country, this House is now poised to repeal the refinery siting law.

The Speaker, the Republican Speaker praised last summer and replaced it with a brand-new refinery siting scheme. The House Republicans have come up with just another new way of helping the oil and gas industry. Apparently, they do not like the bill they enacted last year; they want a new one. The problem is that the new snake oil that is being peddled in this bill is no more effective than the old snake oil it

replaces or the snake oil the Republicans were peddling on the House floor 2 years ago or 3 years ago or 4 years ago.

This bill will not reduce gas prices at the pump, it will not curb spiraling gasoline or home heating oil gas prices. All it does is throw more regulatory subsidies, taxpayer subsidies, at wealthy energy producers who do not need any more government handouts.

Here is what the Bass refinery bill would do: Direct the President to designate no fewer than three closed military bases to be turned over to the oil companies for use as an oil refinery.

Mr. Speaker, this is one terrible bill. I urge the Members to vote "no."

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, a great catcher and left-handed pull hitter on the congressional baseball team.

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, gas prices are at a record high in my northern California congressional district. Part of the reason is that America's refining capacity is stretched to the limit. Yet effort to expand our refining capacity faces up to 10 years of bureaucratic red tape. At that pace, it is no wonder America has not built a new refinery in 30 years.

This legislation cuts through some of that red tape by simply requiring that the Federal agencies work together and stay on schedule when refinery projects are being considered. I do not think it is too much to ask that Federal bureaucracies work more efficiently. Families and businesses throughout this country have to meet deadlines. Mr. Speaker, the government should have to as well.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) has 15½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) has 20 minutes remaining.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING), the distinguished son from the Magnolia State, the distinguished vice chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and I commend him for his leadership on trying to address the energy supply and demand and refining capacity of our Nation so that we can begin to see lower gas prices, better energy supply and a better market for our people here in the States.

It applies to both economic strength and national security. And I wish that we could do more. To be honest, all of the hullabaloo is much to-do about nothing. This bill does not change the

clean air or clean water requirements. EPA has given it priority status. It simply gives an ability for us to coordinate among all government agencies the permitting process which is too cumbersome and too long. This is the only way we can help expedite in a reasonable way and a responsible way to have the refining capacity necessary for our Nation.

It reminds me of my friends on the other side that when they see a house burning, they will lay down in the street to keep the fire truck from coming to make a difference and to put the fire out. That is what we are trying to do, whether it is on OCS, on offshore production, on additional refining capacity, or additional nuclear capabilities in our country, anything that will increase our own independence and energy supply.

On this side, we stand up in a responsible way, a rational way for it; and on the other side, they will do everything to obstruct and block and stop the progress that we need for greater energy production, greater energy refining and greater energy independence.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, we certainly all know that American consumers are facing an energy crisis. The high cost of energy to heat and power our homes and to run our automobiles is sapping family budgets across the Nation, and hurting the bottom line of businesses across the Nation as well. We need to do more to make our Nation energy independent and to reduce energy costs for our consumers. We need to focus on alternatives to oil and other fossil fuels as well by turning to alternatives like ethanol or biodiesel or nuclear power, solar, wind power.

Just as it is wise to diversify your economic portfolio, we must diversify our energy options, and we need to do more to incentivize the production and distribution and use of alternative sources of energy. And I am confident that we will, we can.

But while we work toward alternatives, we must also deal with the reality of the current situation. We have too few refineries, and those we do have are in areas that are vulnerable to natural disasters such as the entire world recognized last year with Hurricane Katrina.

We have not built a new refinery in America since the 1970s. In that time, of course, demand for gasoline has absolutely skyrocketed. The lack of new refineries limits the supply of gas at a time of high demand and it drives up costs for our consumers.

Too many on the other side of this debate look solely at conservation or alternatives, and they ignore the law of supply and demand. The brutal reality is that the greatest victims of this approach are the lowest income Ameri-

cans who are dependent on older, less fuel-efficient vehicles. But they need help.

As well, energy security equals national security and that fundamental caveat needs to be the impetus for this debate today. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation that will serve as a bridge to a more energy-independent America.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the ranking Democrat on the full Energy and Commerce Committee.

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Virginia, for this time.

I begin by observing that this bill and the arguments made on its behalf are as phony as a \$3 bill. My colleagues have seen this sorry piece of legislation before and they voted it down. Since we considered this legislation the first time, there have been no hearings. The arguments made against it at that time are as good today as they were then. And the committee has made no effort to go out and get the facts or to learn what is going on so they could make an honest and factual presentation to this body.

The harsh fact of the matter is the refinery shortage in this country is an economic one. The oil companies do not make money in refineries. The harsh fact of the matter is, as was told me in my office by the head of one of the major oil companies, they do not need any help and they do not want any help to build refineries because they have made an economic judgment that it is better not to build because they make their money elsewhere, and that is a far better way of spending oil companies' money.

□ 1745

Now, if we look at the remarks of Daniel Yergin, a respected oil analyst, he tells us the industry has added the equivalent of 10 new good-sized oil refineries over the last dozen years. In addition to these expansions, recent announcements by the industry anticipate an additional 1.1 million barrels of new refining capacity will be added in coming years. Most importantly, this has been done under current law.

A survey we conducted recently of State and local permitting agencies provides further evidence that the environmental permitting process is not preventing new refineries from being built or existing refineries from being expanded. Only one new major refinery has requested an air permit in the past 30 years. It got the permit, but it never got the investors. Explain that, proponents of the bill.

The air permit has been granted not once but twice. According to our survey, permitting agencies responsible for permitting half the refineries in the

country have issued all, all, but two major expansion permits in less than a year after receipt of a complete application.

This is an ill-advised bill, brought to the House under a parody of the House rules, with no opportunity to amend and little time for an intelligent debate. The rule is effectively closed and permits no amendments by Members on this side of the aisle.

My colleagues on the Republican side have said that the Democrats have not conducted themselves in good faith. Such remarks were made by the chairman of the subcommittee. I would note, and I wish he were here so that he could hear me say this, that those statements are not true.

We consulted through staff and Members alike with the Republicans to come forward with a fair piece of legislation and a compromise bill which would, in fact, work. We offered suggestions on behalf of our side of the aisle through the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER), offering a meaningful substitute, including a refinery bill which would have passed and which would have worked. It was a bill which would have set up not just provisions relating to refinery permits, but also relating to Federal movement towards the construction of these refineries. If you want refineries, that is the way to get them because industry will never construct new refineries because they do not want them.

Now, one more curious thought. My Republican colleagues have said that we will have an energy bill every week, and they are coming close to it, but they are having some small difficulties because here they have to bring the same bill up twice, once under suspension and lose, and once now under a gag rule.

I would note for the benefit of my Republican colleagues that we passed last year, with bipartisan support and my assistance to my friend, the chairman of the committee, in drafting a piece of legislation which included refinery legislation in it, the energy bill of the last year, a good piece of legislation. I supported it. I worked with the chairman to get it done. I would note in a curious, indeed a most curious, action, that bill is substantially repealed by this very strange piece of legislation.

It cannot be explained to me, I think, in a few words as to why it is that that bill, touted as the solution to our Nation's energy problems, has been now repealed at least insofar as the refinery permitting provisions, and why we have to now rush ignorantly forward with a bag upon our heads to pass a new piece of legislation which is going to accomplish precisely nothing, except perhaps help my Republican colleagues in a time of terror and fear.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY), another distinguished member of the full committee, from the State that built our first refinery back in the 1870s and

the State that still today has substantial refinery capacity.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman.

Many times on this floor I have heard debate talk about how America has lost some of its manufacturing capacity to other nations, particularly at times with talk about defense issues such as strategic metals. Many people lament that if we have lost that capacity at times of problems or national security, national defense issues, where will we get it from? We have to depend upon other countries to import that.

Well, we indeed are in the same situation now with our petroleum products that are refined. We import 2 million barrels a day from other countries, from Western Europe, from Saudi Arabia, from Venezuela, from some countries that are more volatile politically than others. The same thing occurs when we are importing other crude oil from other countries, and we recognize the importance of not having to depend upon other countries that one day may be a political friend, and the next day may do such things as say we are cutting off the oil unless you let us have nuclear weapons.

Here we are in that same situation when it comes to oil refineries. It takes about eight to 10 years to go through the permitting process for an oil refinery, a preposterous amount of time, but it is important that all permits and all environmental needs are met. This bill does not gut any of those.

As a matter of fact, what it does is it appoints someone to coordinate and make sure that that process continues on and there are no delays. Once a permitting takes place, it takes an additional 2 to 3 years to construct the plant. So, if we were to pass this today and the Senate were to pass it and the President were to sign this, it would be perhaps another 10 years, a decade, before products started to flow out of there.

We simply cannot delay this anymore. It increases the demand, it reduces the supply, and I believe if the law of supply and demand is telling us anything right now, America is demanding that lawmakers increase the supply.

We know that studies have been done telling us that price gouging is not the issue. It is a matter of having adequate supplies of petroleum and petroleum products. So, while we are working on conservation, while we are working on getting hybrid fuel cell vehicles, we need to pass this bill so we can get more of the supply here and reduce the cost.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4½ minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Virginia said earlier, this bill is a solution in search of a problem. I really want to focus on section 5 of the bill, and I would urge all my colleagues to

read this bill, together with the BRAC statutes and regulations in order to understand what we are doing here.

But as written, section 5 of the bill requires the President to designate at least three closed military bases as sites for oil refineries, and then it requires the local redevelopment authorities, or LRAs, to develop a reuse plan for an oil refinery. The BRAC statute and the BRAC regulations give the final decision to the Secretary of Defense, not to the local community. Under current law, the LRA is charged with developing a reuse plan for a closed base.

Successful LRAs develop their plans in consultation with a myriad of stakeholders in the local community, as well as representatives from State and Federal agencies and private industry. Over a period of time, often 18 to 24 months, the LRA painstakingly designs a plan that takes into account the specific needs of the local community and has local support.

The reuse plan is then submitted to the Secretary of Defense who has the authority to approve the plan or reject it and require the LRA to start over.

Now, I have no problem with an LRA or any local community deciding that an oil refinery represents the best use of their closed facility. If it makes sense for such a community, then they should do it. There is nothing, nothing, in current law or in the regulations put forth by the Office of Economic Adjustment at DOD that is an obstacle to building a refinery. There is no problem.

We do not need section 5, but if you look at section 5, Designation of Closed Military Bases, the presidential designate, it is mandatory, no less than three closed military installations as potentially suitable for construction of a refinery. Part B, the redevelopment authority shall consider the feasibility and practicality of siting a refinery on the installation.

The next section contemplates that they will do that in the context of the redevelopment plan for the installation, and then it provides the rest of it shall be carried out under the BRAC law.

So here we have a situation where the President of the United States is going to designate, is going to order such a plan, and in that case, the Secretary of Defense is almost certain to carry it out. The LRA has no power to stop them.

And do not think that this language applies only to the 2005 BRAC round. It applies to all bases closed pursuant to a BRAC round back to 1988 that still have an open or partially open reuse plan.

Now, supporters of this are circulating a Dear Colleague which says that the redevelopment authority for each closed base will consider the President's suggestions but is not required to accept them. Frankly, that is

just wrong. The bill says that it requires the Secretary of Defense to consult, and they define and the regs define consultation as explaining and discussing an issue, considering objections, modifications and alternatives, but without a requirement to reach agreement.

The supporters also say, and consistent with the language of the bill, that it requires the Secretary of Defense to give, and I quote, significant deference to the wishes of the LRA, and I want you to hold this concept in your head for a moment. Secretary Rumsfeld, giving significant deference to anybody, any agency, especially a local redevelopment authority? That is simply not going to happen.

The fact is that there is no requirement that an LRA accept a reuse plan in this bill. Of course not. The underlying BRAC statute makes it clear that the reuse plan is not binding on DOD. LRAs do not accept reuse plans. They propose them. The Secretary of Defense accepts reuse plans or rejects them. That is his role.

Now, Mr. Speaker, communities that have suffered major base closings like Brunswick in my district are reeling from the economic impact. Jobs will be lost, the fabric of a community torn apart. These communities need to plan for their future, but they do not need interference from this Congress or from the President of the United States. Please oppose this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) has 14 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to engage in a colloquy with the gentleman from Maine.

It is the clear intent of this opinion legislation to not require any local community that does not wish a refinery, whether it be in the private sector or on a closed military base, to opt out of the process. I am checking with the majority parliamentarian staff, but I am willing to take an amendment on the floor right now that changes that language so that if the military base or local authority wants nothing to do with it, that is it, if the gentleman from Maine is willing to vote for the bill.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from Maine.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, well, I would need to see the amendment.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. You write it. This is not a bogus offer. We are not trying to do the nefarious intent that you claim we are, and if we can work out the parliamentary language so that it does not violate some rule of the House, I will take an amendment right now that you offer, if you will vote for the bill.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, my amendment was to delete section 5 of the bill.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. I do not want to delete it, but I am willing to clarify it if you are willing to vote for the bill.

Mr. ALLEN. That was my amendment. It was rejected by the Rules Committee. We should at least have had a vote on that amendment on the floor and we do not.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), the distinguished chairman of the Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee.

□ 1800

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I, of course, rise today in support of H.R. 5254. While there is a lot of talk about refinery plants and all that, and while some plants have expanded, there haven't been any new ones built in the past 30 years. All the time Mr. MARKEY's been up here, there hasn't been one started, so far as I know, or built. Maybe enlarged or worked on, but they remain dangerously clustered in the gulf region. This bill would coordinate the permitting process for new refineries so that needless delays would be eliminated while preserving environmental protections.

One provision in the bill calls on the President to designate three or more closed military installations as potentially suitable for the construction of a refinery. Now, why is this provision in the bill? Because there are communities with closed bases, such as the former Lone Star Army Ammunition Base in my district in Texarkana, Texas, that would like to have a refinery, because it makes good economic sense.

The gentleman from Maine does not want one. He is not having one thrust upon him. Refineries bring jobs and a solid base to the local community. The designation by the President would boost a willing community's chances of getting the attention of a potential commercial developer.

Opponents of this legislation claim that the legislation will increase the likelihood that a community that does not want a refinery on a closed base would get one. That is ridiculous, and that is exactly wrong. Why? Because the bill only requires that three local redevelopment authorities consider the feasibility and practicability of siting a refinery. There is no requirement that they accept it. And also because the Secretary of Defense is required to give a substantial deference to the recommendation of the development authority to site or not to site.

Helping a willing local community to site a refinery on its closed military installation is good. It is good for the area. And, once again, a city in my area, like Texarkana, on the far eastern side of the State of Texas, close to four States, would have the support of four States, probably eight Senators, and is not subject to the vicissitudes of nature, but yet on an inside, navigable stream, with good workers there and in other areas.

This is good for the community because it brings jobs and a healthy tax base. It is good for the country because it adds needed domestic refining capacity. It also lowers dramatically the cost of gasoline, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5254.

Mr. Speaker, I enclose for the RECORD a letter soliciting this from the Texarkana people.

TEXARKANA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

June 6, 2006.

Re H.R. 5254—Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act.

Hon. RALPH HALL,  
Rayburn Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HALL: Let it be clear to all who are concerned: this community was impacted by BRAC 2005 and we would be glad to have the opportunity to attract a refinery to our closed defense facility. Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant (LSAAP) could be one of the facilities eligible for a possible refinery as a result of the BRAC 2005 action. This facility is within fifteen miles of our community and we are excited that we could have the opportunity to provide our citizens with the jobs associated with a refinery.

These energy-related jobs could also spur new technologies which could highlight our region for years to come. The resultant jobs and capital investment could help to offset the loss of LSAAP and smooth the transition to privately owned, tax paying entities on the property. Our local university is working to develop a Master's level engineering program and the technical jobs offered by a refinery would be an integral piece of that program.

It looks like our community is going to have over 15,000 acres of land available for economic development. We can think of no better place to start that development than with a refinery.

As always, we appreciate your dedication to our region.

With best regards,

LINDA CRAWFORD,  
President.

JAMES BRAMLETT,  
Mayor—Texarkana,  
TX.

ROY JOHN McNATT,  
Miller County Judge.

HORACE SHIPP,  
Mayor—Texarkana,  
AR.

JAMES M. CARLOW,  
Bowie County Judge.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish to yield 4 minutes to another distinguished member of the full committee on Energy and Commerce from the great Granite State of New Hampshire (Mr. BASS).

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee for recognizing me and, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this piece of legislation.

We have heard all the good reasons why the bill should pass. We need new refinery capacity. We need more regional diversity in refinery capacity. We are too reliant on oil as a feedstock for fuel in this country, and we need to develop alternative energy resources.

Now, I know that there is work under way right as we speak to try to figure

out a way that we can accommodate the interests of my friend from Maine, Congressman ALLEN, and his concerns over the Brunswick Naval Air Station, which is a BRAC'd naval air station in his district. I assure you that this section 5 was never created with the intent of forcing any kind of refinery capacity on any community in an area that didn't want it. If they do not want it in Maine or somewhere else in the country, they are not going to have it. There is no question about that, and the language is very clear in that respect.

The fact is the Association of Defense Communities does not oppose this bill and recognizes the protection of local authority that is maintained by this piece of legislation. So if we can dispense with that argument and pick up more support than we have already got. When the bill got 237 votes, which is, at last count, a majority of votes in this Congress, the last time it came up, it didn't get two-thirds, but it got a majority. We will work to increase that margin if we can do so in such a fashion that we can protect the ability of closed bases to subsequently build refineries or biorefineries. We need biorefinery capacity in the Northeast and this represents a potential great opportunity.

Now, we heard from other Members that refinery capacity is tight for economic reasons and not because of environmental permits. Let me make a couple of points there. First of all, I have here a list of the major permits and authorizations that were required for Arizona Clean Fuels, and I would point out that there were 37 of them required, 37 of them.

This bill would not short-circuit one single one of those requirements. Not one. But what it would do is it would allow them to occur at the same time, instead of in succession, and it would make the permitting process more seamless and occur, hopefully, more quickly.

It interests me that my friends are really supporting Big Oil, when they say that Big Oil doesn't want it so we shouldn't make it more possible. Well, Big Oil are not the only entities that necessarily build refineries, and I would suggest that the industry that wants to keep oil prices high might not want to make it easy to build more refinery capacity. But I suggest don't give them the excuse.

This bill does not circumvent any environmental, Corps of Engineers, local authority, or anything, but what it does do is, it takes away the excuse that it takes too long to build a refinery. And we need more refinery capacity in this country.

Another argument was made by my distinguished colleague from Michigan that all we needed to do was to increase the size of the refinery capacity that we have today. Apparently, my friend has forgotten that last fall one of the major reasons why energy prices climbed by 50 cents a gallon in my part

of the world was because a hurricane went through the Gulf of Mexico and Louisiana. We need diversity of refinery capacity in this country, and I mean by that geographic diversity.

What this bill will do is not promote bigger, fewer refineries, but more refineries in more places around the country, and the potential to have a biorefinery built in the Northeast, which is critical to my district.

My friends, this is about energy. There is no question about that. But it is also about energy diversity. We need more oil supplies, but we also need more alternatives, and we are willing to do what we can without bending good environmental policy to increase that capacity. I urge support of this legislation.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, this legislation continues the Republican leadership's approach of treating the big oil companies with special attention while ignoring the needs of the American people. For years, the Republican leadership has worked to give Big Oil everything they could ever want: subsidies, environmental exemptions, loopholes, and paybacks. The results have been spectacular for the oil companies, but not for the American people.

ExxonMobil recently announced first quarter profits of over \$8 billion and rewarded their CEO with a retirement package totaling nearly \$400 million. Chevron reported its profits are up 49 percent from last year. But energy is costing the American family twice as much as it did just 5 years ago.

The Republican leadership wants desperately to blame State and local governments, to blame environmental requirements for the cost of gasoline. That is the myth they want to create. But the facts are completely different. Permits have been readily granted whenever refiners have applied for them.

According to the Environmental Council of the States, there is simply no factual record that supports the need for this legislation. The State and Territorial Air Pollution Program administrators wrote to all Members of the House to point out that this legislation will have the opposite effect of what is intended. They say it would almost surely delay the permitting process.

The Republican leadership wants to claim that this legislation solves the Nation's gasoline problems. If anything, it will make it worse. Mr. Speaker, we need to reject this legislation. It is based on a faulty premise. It is only for the purpose of saying that we have done something without actually doing anything that would provide real relief to millions of American families.

I urge a "no" vote on the bill.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a distinguished

member from the Grand Canyon State (Mr. SHADEGG), who has the distinction of representing the last State in the Union to at least permit a new refinery. It hasn't yet been built, but they at least issued the permits for it.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Refinery Permit Process Scheduling Act. If anything, I wish this bill went much further.

One year ago, I went to New York and visited the New York Mercantile Exchange. The traders on the floor that I spoke to said the exact opposite of what we just heard on the floor of this House. What they said was that this Nation is in desperate need of additional refining capacity. They grabbed me by the lapel on the floor of the trading mercantile and said, Do what you can to get additional refining capacity built. That is not a windfall for the oil companies, that is a windfall for consumers.

As the chairman of the committee mentioned, opponents of this bill cite the experience of Arizona Clean Fuels in Yuma as an example for why they say we don't need to improve the refining process or the regulatory process governing the construction of a refinery. Yet that example proves them wrong. It took Arizona Clean Fuels 5 years and 4 months, from December 1999 to April 2005, to obtain their permit.

It simply is not logical nor is it reasonable to say to investors in a market, if you want to build a new refinery, you have to spend almost 6 years seeking the permit to build that refinery.

Our opponents on this bill say, Well, we don't need any additional improvements to the process and we don't need to lower the environmental standards. Yet it has been made clear over and over here on the floor in the debate that we are not lowering environmental standards. Indeed, the legislation calls for the EPA to be the primary scheduling agency.

There has been no new refinery built in the United States for 30 years, since 1976. Opponents of the bill say, Well, that is all right, we have made up that by increased capacity at existing facilities. Well, let's see what we have done. We have dropped from 324 refineries in 1981 to only 148 refineries today. Relying on ever larger existing facilities, without constructing new ones, does not benefit the consuming public, as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have taught us.

This is good legislation. It needs to be enacted. And the experience in my State proves this kind of regulatory improvement is absolutely essential.

I urge the passage of the legislation.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican bill is not an effective way to address the shortage in refining capacity. It tramples on State environmental laws without effectively solving the problem.

The CEOs of the refinery companies have testified that the permitting process for refinery siting is not burdensome and has not prevented the construction of needed new refineries. The Republican bill, therefore, weakens State environmental laws needlessly because it would do virtually nothing to ensure that new refineries are, in fact, built.

By contrast, our Democratic alternative will be effective, it will address our national refinery shortage, and it will do so by relying on the proven and successful means by which we addressed several decades ago disruptions in crude oil supplies. We simply would extend the proven concept of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve by constructing a strategic refinery reserve in order to address the problem of refining capacity, very similar today to the problem we addressed decades ago with regard to crude oil supply disruptions.

So, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge rejection of the Republican bill, and I urge that when we submit our motion to recommit that that be approved by the House.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1815

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to admit up front that the procedure for bringing this bill to the floor has not been what I would have preferred it to be, and I am going to side with my friends on the minority side about their complaints about the procedure. It has not gone through the regular order, and in the perfect world, it should have. Unfortunately, we do not live in a perfect world.

We had to take some action on the majority side to show the American people that we were serious about doing anything possible to help alleviate some of these high energy prices, and it is certainly my opinion and I think it is a fact that one part of that process has got to be to make it possible to expand existing refineries and build new refineries in this country.

It is a fact, plain and simple, that we are using over 20 million barrels a day of petroleum products and we only have the refining capacity for 16 to 17 million barrels. That is a fact.

It is also a fact that in the hearings we have had on our energy price problem in this country in the Committee on Energy and Commerce that I chair, it has been shown that one of the leading causes of the higher prices has been the refining capacity shortage.

Now, historically the refining industry in this country has been a loss leader. If you go back 10 or 15 years ago when we had the integrated oil companies going from the production of the crude through the distribution of the crude, when it came to refineries, they lost money. So for a lot of reasons they shut down the refining capacity, and

we developed a shortage in refining capacity.

Today the margin, it is the called the crack margin, and it has nothing to do with crack cocaine or cracks in concrete, it has to do with the ability to go in and crack the molecules in the crude oil and get the different levels of petroleum products out of that crude. That crack margin is higher than it ever has been by an order of magnitude. In some cases, the margin is probably approaching \$30 to \$35 a barrel of the \$70 or \$72 price. So there is more than adequate profit, but because of the regulatory impediments, it is almost impossible to go through the permitting process in a timely fashion under existing regulations and get a decision.

Now it is a true statement when my friends on the minority side say there has been no refinery not built in this country in the last 30 years, because they did not get a permit. That is a true statement, but it is only half true. The rest of the story is nobody in their right mind would try to get a permit to build a new refinery because it takes so long. So they are kind of beaten before they even start.

In the case in Arizona where an industrial group did go through the process, to this day in spite of them saying they have the permits, they have all but one. They still do not have the permit from the United States Bureau of Reclamation giving them title to the land. In this case, the land is actually owned by the Federal Government, and they still have not cleared the title to that land. Now they are going to, but they have not.

So the bill before us today is not a perfect bill. But at least it says, let us appoint a Federal coordinator, let us work with the State and local government. Let us set up a procedure where we coordinate all of these permits. We do not override any State or Federal or local air quality or water quality regulation, we just say let's coordinate it. And oh, yes, let's let the President pick three sites out in the country on closed military bases, of which we have dozens, and maybe we can get the local redevelopment authority to work with State and Federal officials to put a refinery there.

There is really no reason to oppose this bill. It is not going to do any harm, and it might just do some good. I urge a "yes" vote on this bill.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5254, the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act. Protecting our environment and promoting energy independence are two of the most important jobs I have as a Member of Congress, but before we can begin to consider building more refineries, we must first change our consumption habits. American consumption of oil has been increasing at an unsustainable rate. In 1995, we consumed 17.7 million barrels of oil per day, but today we consume 20.5 million barrels per day.

The bottom line is we are not resolving our energy needs because we are not conserving. We'll just continue to consume more and

waste more, consume more and waste more, and act like it doesn't matter. We are on a demand course that is simply unsustainable.

We need to address rising energy prices by encouraging conservation and this bill fails to do anything to impact that. This bill will not affect gasoline prices or reduce our dependence on foreign oil. To feel relief from the price at the pump, we must focus on decreasing our consumption of oil and looking to alternative energy sources.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 5254, the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act of 2006.

Though the Majority disingenuously argues that environmental regulations are responsible for high gas prices, the facts don't support their claim. Refining costs have increased because oil companies have deliberately decreased capacity to boost profits. In the late 1980s and early '90s, oil companies shut down 30 refineries in an attempt to raise profit margins. The scheme worked: refinery revenues increased by 255 percent last year.

In response to market pressure, refining capacity has increased in recent years. Between 1996 and 2003, capacity increased by 1.4 million barrels per day. As a result, the American Petroleum Institute believes that H.R. 5254 is completely unnecessary. The free market that the Republicans claim to love is working, but this legislation is about politics, not about solving the priorities of America's working families.

This legislation would: Allow the President to place new refineries on closed military bases. The military base in my district would probably be an appealing target for this President: it's the site of a planned National Wildlife Refuge. Like many communities around the country, the City of Alameda has undergone an extensive planning process to convert the base to civilian use, but if the President said the word, the City's work could be suspended while the federal government decided whether or not it wanted to build a refinery on the premises. Undermine environmental review processes and make state and local environmental officials answer to a new refinery czar appointed by President Bush.

The one good thing you can say about this bill is that it's not another gift to oil companies—they readily admit that environmental regulations have not prevented them from building new refineries. This legislation is just another ill-conceived talking point for Republicans desperate to appear responsive to rising energy prices. I won't play that game and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "no".

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act (H.R. 5254).

About a month ago the House debated this legislation under Suspension of the Rules, which makes it impossible for Members to offer amendments. H.R. 5254 did not receive the needed two-thirds majority necessary to pass under the Suspension calendar since many Members had serious objections to the proposed legislation. But we are here again today, considering this legislation without an open debate. Two Democratic amendments were ruled out of order by the Rules Committee. Representative DINGELL and Representative BOUCHER offered a substitute, which would have created a new Strategic Refinery Reserve to give our country the ability to produce refined oil products during extreme energy situations. Representative ALLEN offered an amendment that would have struck



the section of the bill requiring three closed military bases be considered as locations for refineries. So again today, we are considering this bill without the opportunity for real debate.

H.R. 5254 is based on a false premise—that requirements for environmental permits are to blame for the lack of refinery capacity. Oil companies have openly stated that environmental standards are not stopping them from building new refineries. In fact, the truth is that oil companies simply do not want to build more refineries. The solution that H.R. 5254 prescribes does not match the problem that our nation faces with energy.

Instead of investing in sustainable energy sources to meet our growing energy needs, we remain stuck in our old ways. Since the most recent spike in gas prices in early May, Congress has not considered one energy conservation piece of legislation. Instead we have considered a bill to open the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling, and we will try again today to build more refineries. I hear many of my colleagues express their commitments to sustainable energy sources, yet we continue to focus our legislative efforts on oil. We simply can not rely on oil to meet our future energy needs.

I would like to take the opportunity to discuss one point of this bill that I find particularly disturbing. Section 5 directs the President to designate three closed military bases for new oil refining facilities. This section will ultimately force communities that have already suffered from the closure of a military base to welcome unwillingly an oil refinery in their backyards if the President and the Secretary of the Army deem it worthy of a refinery. I am disappointed that Representative ALLEN's amendment was ruled out of order by the Rules Committee that would have struck this provision from the bill.

In late April, I joined with New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine, Representative FRANK PALLONE and other New Jersey State legislators for the Signing of the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Act, which creates a ten-member authority charged with overseeing the transition and revitalization of Fort Monmouth once it closes in or before 2011. Creating such an authority is an important step for communities to protect their interests as communities are revitalized following a base closure. What frightens me even more about this provision is that the Secretary of Defense can override any decision made by a local authority. The federal government can supersede a local decision. This is not just about Fort Monmouth in my district in central New Jersey. This is about communities who are already dealing with the closure of a military base. This is about allowing the Federal Government to overrule what state and local authorities believe is best for their communities.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this legislation because it does not address our growing energy needs and is unfair to local communities.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 5242. This bill is another example of the Republican's misguided priorities.

This legislation targets our states, communities, and environmental laws as the culprits for high gas prices. But we know the truth. The dirty little secret is that oil companies which made more than \$110 billion in profits in 2005 and \$16 billion in profits in the first three months of 2006 do not want to build new refineries. They do not want to spend the

money! We learned from leaked corporate memos that the major companies—Chevron, Texaco and Mobil would go so far as to buy and shut down the competition in order to keep capacity tight.

The Yuma refinery is just one example. Twice since the 1990s this proposed refinery received the necessary permits to be constructed and operated. But the Yuma refinery has not been constructed because it cannot find the financing. Bob Slaughter from the National Petrochemical and Refiners Association testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee on May 11, 2006 that the proponents of this project have an "air permit, but they're having trouble getting financing and actually getting that built."

Just last week the Yuma Sun reported that the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality issued a draft renewal of the current air quality permit already held by ACF—a full 6 months before the existing permit is scheduled to expire. Proponents of this bill argue that states have been delaying permits. Arizona Clean Fuels disagreed and stated "ADEQ has been very cooperative in working with us to make sure the project does proceed." And the Environmental Council of States has written that they are not aware of any credible report that our states are denying or lagging behind on permitting of new refineries and the expansion of existing refineries.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that this body considers legislation based on facts and truths. The fact is that states are not delaying permitting and environmental laws are not to blame. I urge my colleagues to protect the authority of their states and the rights of all communities—vote against this flawed legislation.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, show-me State motorists, like all consumers, closely follow gasoline prices, and with good reason. They have experienced dramatic increases and wide fluctuations in gas prices over the past several years, spending millions of dollars more on gasoline than they had anticipated.

Rural Americans, who rely heavily on transportation in going about their daily lives, are being hit particularly hard by the high cost of gasoline. This is especially true for farmers, many of whom are already operating at a loss this year.

It is imperative that Congress work to address our nation's energy needs through a comprehensive and proactive strategy that makes it easier to promote alternative energy sources, to stop price gouging, to increase production by expanding refining capacity, and to roll back billions of dollars in taxpayer subsidies to oil companies that are making record profits.

The refinery permitting bill before the House today contains scant assistance for the rural Missourians I am privileged to represent. It would not lower their energy costs nor assure our nation's energy security. Rather, it would change the permitting process for refineries and would require the President to designate closed military bases for consideration as locations for new refineries.

Designating closed military bases for refineries seems to make little if any sense at all. I can't believe that we have used up all the possible locations available for placing refineries and must now resort to giving federal land grants to the oil companies to encourage them to build new capacity. Closed bases are not abandoned land. In nearly every case, the

communities that surround these former installations have reuse plans for these bases to benefit the local community. If they want to place a refinery on a closed base, let them make that determination.

Unfortunately, changing permitting rules and offering federal land to oil companies will not entice them to build new oil refineries. While more refineries would certainly help produce more gasoline, oil companies have had the opportunity and financial capability for years to increase their refining capacity. Permitting rules are not stopping them, nor is there a lack of available locations for new refineries. Rather, the inability to build profitable refineries has led oil company executives away from constructing or resurrecting them.

The energy problems we are facing today must be addressed with meaningful, comprehensive legislation. House Democrats have been active in this regard, pressing for increases in the use of alternative fuel produced from the corn and soybeans grown in Missouri's fields.

Democrats have also been pushing for passage of anti-price gouging legislation since the energy markets were impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

I have supported alternate legislation that would strengthen the hands of the Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department, targeting price gouging across the energy spectrum. It would also help Americans who are struggling to deal with high gas prices and bracing for record home heating and air conditioning bills, while creating a Strategic Refinery Reserve to provide additional gas supplies during energy spikes like the one we are currently facing. Unfortunately, this more wisely drafted alternative has not even been allowed as an amendment to this bill.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of increasing government efficiency in considering new refinery applications in the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act.

Gas prices have risen as supplies have been stretched thin and U.S. refineries have struggled to refine all of the oil we need. This bill streamlines the cumbersome government processes that delay and discourage new development and production, paving the way for construction of new oil or biofuel refineries.

Domestic energy security depends on reliable supply through exploration of oil and gas reserves on the outer continental shelf, bolstering our refining capacity, and investigating alternative sources of energy.

This bill is an important piece of ensuring American energy security and I am proud to support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 842, the bill is considered read and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MR. BOUCHER

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am in its current form.



The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Boucher moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5254 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. STRATEGIC REFINERY RESERVE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish and operate a Strategic Refinery Reserve in the United States. The Secretary may design and construct new refineries, or acquire closed refineries and reopen them, to carry out this section.

(b) OPERATION.—The Secretary shall operate refineries in the Strategic Refinery Reserve for the following purposes:

(1) During any period described in subsection (c), to provide petroleum products to the general public.

(2) To provide petroleum products to the Federal Government, including the Department of Defense, as well as State governments and political subdivisions thereof who choose to purchase refined petroleum products from the Strategic Refinery Reserve.

(c) EMERGENCY PERIODS.—The Secretary shall make petroleum products from the Strategic Refinery Reserve available under subsection (b)(1) only—

(1) during a severe energy supply interruption, within the meaning of such term under part B of title I of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6231 et seq.); or

(2) if the President determines that there is a regional petroleum product supply shortage of significant scope and duration and that action taken under subsection (b)(1) would assist directly and significantly in reducing the adverse impact of such shortage.

(d) LOCATIONS.—In determining the location of a refinery for the Strategic Refinery Reserve, the Secretary shall take into account the following factors:

(1) Impact on the local community (determined after requesting and receiving comments from State, county or parish, and municipal governments, and the public).

(2) Regional vulnerability to a natural disaster.

(3) Regional vulnerability to terrorist attacks.

(4) Proximity to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

(5) Accessibility to energy infrastructure.

(6) The need to minimize adverse public health and environmental impacts.

(7) The energy needs of the Federal Government, including the Department of Defense.

(e) INCREASED CAPACITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that refineries in the Strategic Refinery Reserve are designed to enable a rapid increase in production capacity during periods described in subsection (c).

(f) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall transmit to the Congress a plan for the establishment and operation of the Strategic Refinery Reserve under this section. Such plan shall provide for establishing, within 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, and maintaining a capacity for the Reserve equal to 5 percent of the total United States daily demand for gasoline, home heating oil, and other refined petroleum products. If the Secretary finds that achieving such capacity within 2 years is not feasible, the Secretary shall explain in the plan the reasons therefor, and shall include provisions for achieving such capacity as soon as practicable. Such plan

shall also provide for adequate delivery systems capable of providing Strategic Refinery Reserve product to the entities described in subsection (b)(2).

(g) COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this section shall affect any requirement to comply with Federal or State environmental or other law.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—The definitions contained in section 3 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6202) shall apply to this section.

#### SEC. 2. REFINERY CLOSING REPORTS.

(a) CLOSING REPORTS.—The owner or operator of a refinery in the United States shall notify the Secretary of Energy at least 6 months in advance of permanently closing the refinery, and shall include in such notice an explanation of the reasons for the proposed closing.

(b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Federal Trade Commission, shall promptly report to the Congress any report received under subsection (a), along with an analysis of the effects the proposed closing would have on petroleum product prices, competition in the refining industry, the national economy, regional economies and regional supplies of refined petroleum products, and United States energy security.

Mr. BOUCHER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the motion be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, the motion to recommit is the only means by which the Democratic alternative to the Republican bill could be brought to the House floor, and that is under the very restrictive procedure that the Republicans have adopted which eliminates any possibility for amendments, including a Democratic substitute.

I regret that that restrictive process does not enable the House to consider our Democratic alternative in regular order.

The motion that I am offering would create a strategic refinery reserve. That would be an effective means of resolving our national problem with regard to limited refinery capacity. We would model the refinery reserve upon the very successful strategic petroleum reserve which has been an excellent shock absorber protecting Americans from gasoline price spikes when there are disruptions in the delivery of crude oil.

Under our amendment, the Secretary of Energy will be directed to establish refineries with capacity equal to 5 percent of the total United States demand for gasoline, home heating oil and other refined petroleum products. The location of the refineries will be at the discretion of the Secretary with a preference that they be sited well away from the hurricane zone where we are concentrated today in our existing refinery capacity.

During normal times, the reserve will not operate at full capacity. The refineries during these normal times would sell refined product to the Federal fleet, including the Department of Defense, a step which would also enhance our national security.

Keeping the refinery reserve operational will ensure no lag time in placing it online if it is needed in times of emergency, and in those times when some portion of the Nation's refinery capacity is shut down, the refinery reserve would protect Americans from gasoline price spikes by selling their product into the commercial market.

This approach is sensible. It is based on a working and highly successful model, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. It would be effective. It stands in stark contrast to the Republican proposal which would weaken environmental laws while failing to address our critical refinery shortage.

This motion also strikes section 5 which would direct the President to select three closed military bases upon which refineries would be situated, a provision which I find objectionable, which I think the vast majority of Members of this House also find objectionable. We would strike it in this motion.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) to address those concerns.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Boucher-Dingell motion to recommit. Passage of this motion would do a great deal to improve refinery capacity and enhance the Nation's capability to respond to natural disasters.

The motion would also strike section 5, that section of the underlying bill that requires the President to designate at least three closed military bases as sites for oil refineries.

Passage of this motion would guarantee that communities which have had a base closed through the BRAC process will not be forced by Presidential fiat to accept an oil refinery. If you have a closed military base in your community or you believe in local control concerning decisions of siting oil refineries, support the Boucher-Dingell motion. If this motion fails and you care about the fate of a closed military base in your community, I urge Members to vote "no" on the underlying bill.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this motion to recommit, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I certainly have sympathy for the underlying concept of the motion to recommit. The concept is that the United States Government should build, and perhaps even operate a certain number of refineries for a strategic refinery reserve. Conceptually, the idea is worth considering and we did consider it in

the discussions and negotiations that we had with Mr. BOUCHER and Mr. DINGELL. We never reached resolution, and there are a number of reasons why we couldn't reach resolution, and those are the reasons for which I oppose this motion to recommit.

First of all, we never really defined and the motion to recommit does not define what a strategic reserve is. That is one of the problems.

Another problem with the motion to recommit is it actually has the government operating the refinery. I do not believe that we really want the Federal Government or the U.S. military, which is part of the Federal Government, to be in the business of operating a refinery. If they do not operate it, except in certain times, times of war, times of national emergency, what do you with it the rest of the time? The bill is silent about that.

And of course, conceptually, we have a problem on the majority side of the aisle with government intervention of any kind. I will grant you as chairman of the committee, I could see a set of rules which we were never able to get to in our negotiations where you could set up certain parameters and certain backstops and things where maybe we could overcome that, but we simply were not able to pursue that, and the underlying motion to recommit does not pursue that.

This is an idea that has some merit. It is quite possible that if the Senate, the other body does something on refinery reform, that we might yet make a bipartisan agreement with some of our friends on the minority side. But for purposes of the motion to recommit at this point in time I strongly oppose this and would urge all Members who are prepared to vote for the refinery bill, the base bill, to vote "no" on the motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

#### RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minutes votes on passage of H.R. 5254, if ordered; suspending the rules and passing H.R. 5449; and suspending the rules and passing S. 2803.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 195, noes 223, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 231]

#### AYES—195

Abercrombie  
Ackerman  
Allen  
Andrews  
Baca  
Baird  
Baldwin  
Barrow  
Bean  
Becerra  
Berkley  
Berman  
Berry  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Boren  
Boswell  
Boucher  
Boyd  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (OH)  
Brown, Corrine  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cardin  
Cardoza  
Carnahan  
Carson  
Case  
Chandler  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Costello  
Cramer  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (AL)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis (FL)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (TN)  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delahunt  
DeLauro  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle  
Edwards  
Emanuel  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Etheridge  
Evans  
Farr  
Fattah  
Frank (MA)  
Gonzalez  
Gordon  
Green, Al

Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutierrez  
Harman  
Hastings (FL)  
Hereth  
Higgins  
Hinchee  
Hinojosa  
Holden  
Holt  
Honda  
Hooley  
Hoyer  
Inslee  
Israel  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee (TX)  
Jefferson  
Johnson, E. B.  
Jones (OH)  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Kennedy (RI)  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick (MI)  
Kind  
Kucinich  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (GA)  
Lipinski  
Lofgren, Zoe  
Lowey  
Lynch  
Maloney  
Markey  
Marshall  
Matheson  
Matsui  
McCarthy  
McCollum (MN)  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McIntyre  
McKinney  
McNulty  
Meehan  
Meek (FL)  
Meeke (NY)  
Melancon  
Michaud  
Millender-Engel  
Miller (NC)  
Miller, George  
Mollohan  
Moore (KS)  
Moore (WI)  
Moran (VA)  
Murtha  
Nadler  
Napolitano

#### NOES—223

Aderholt  
Akin  
Alexander  
Bachus  
Baker  
Barrett (SC)  
Bartlett (MD)  
Barton (TX)  
Bass  
Beauprez  
Biggert  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (UT)  
Blackburn  
Blunt  
Boehert  
Boehner  
Bonilla  
Bonner  
Boozman  
Boustany  
Bradley (NH)  
Brady (TX)  
Brown (SC)  
Brown-Waite, Ginny  
Burgess

Burton (IN)  
Buyer  
Calvert  
Camp (MI)  
Campbell (CA)  
Cannon  
Cantor  
Capito  
Carter  
Castle  
Chabot  
Chocola  
Coble  
Cole (OK)  
Conaway  
Crenshaw  
Cubin  
Culberson  
Davis (KY)  
Davis, Jo Ann  
Davis, Tom  
Deal (GA)  
Dent  
Diaz-Balart, L.  
Diaz-Balart, M.  
Doolittle  
Drake

Green (WI)  
Gutknecht  
Hall  
Harris  
Hart  
Hastings (WA)  
Hayes  
Hayworth  
Hefley  
Hensarling  
Herger  
Hobson  
Hoekstra  
Hostettler  
Hulshof  
Hunter  
Hyde  
Inglis (SC)  
Issa  
Istook  
Jenkins  
Jindal  
Johnson (CT)  
Johnson (IL)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones (NC)  
Keller  
Kelly  
Kennedy (MN)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kingston  
Kirk  
Kline  
Knollenberg  
Kolbe  
Kuhl (NY)  
LaHood  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Leach  
Lewis (CA)  
Lewis (KY)  
Linder  
LoBiondo  
Lucas  
Lungren, Daniel E.

Mack  
Marchant  
McCauley (TX)  
McCotter  
McCrery  
McHenry  
McHugh  
McKeon  
McMorris  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Miller, Gary  
Moran (KS)  
Murphy  
Musgrave  
Myrick  
Neugebauer  
Ney  
Northup  
Norwood  
Nunes  
Osborne  
Otter  
Oxley  
Paul  
Pearce  
Pence  
Peterson (PA)  
Petri  
Pickering  
Pitts  
Platts  
Poe  
Pombo  
Porter  
Price (GA)  
Pryce (OH)  
Putnam  
Radanovich  
Ramstad  
Regula  
Rehberg  
Reichert  
Renzi  
Reynolds  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)

Rogers (MI)  
Rohrabacher  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Royce  
Ryan (WI)  
Ryun (KS)  
Saxton  
Schmidt  
Schwarz (MI)  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shadegg  
Shaw  
Sherwood  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simmons  
Simpson  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Soderl  
Souder  
Stearns  
Sullivan  
Sweeney  
Tancredo  
Taylor (NC)  
Terry  
Thomas  
Thornberry  
Tiahrt  
Tiberi  
Turner  
Upton  
Walden (OR)  
Walsh  
Wamp  
Weldon (FL)  
Weldon (PA)  
Weller  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Wicker  
Wilson (NM)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wolf  
Young (AK)  
Young (FL)

#### NOT VOTING—14

Bishop (NY)  
Bono  
DeLay  
Filner  
Ford

Gibbons  
Gohmert  
Lantos  
Manzullo  
Nussle

Oberstar  
Olver  
Reyes  
Slaughter

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1852

Mr. GILCHREST changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. HOLT changed their vote from "no" to "aye." So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 231, motion to recommit on H.R. 5254, I was in my Congressional District on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

#### RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 238, noes 179, not voting 15, as follows:

Dreier  
Duncan  
Ehlers  
Emerson  
English (PA)  
Everett  
Feeney  
Ferguson  
Fitzpatrick (PA)  
Flake  
Foley  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Fossella  
Foxy  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Gallely  
Garrett (NJ)  
Gerlach  
Gilchrest  
Gillmor  
Gingrey  
Goode  
Goodlatte  
Granger  
Graves

[Roll No. 232]

AYES—238

Aderholt Gallegly Neugebauer  
 Akin Garrett (NJ) Ney  
 Alexander Gerlach Northup  
 Bachus Gilchrest Norwood  
 Baker Gillmor Nunes  
 Barrett (SC) Gingrey Osborne  
 Barrow Otter  
 Bartlett (MD) Goodlatte  
 Barton (TX) Gordon  
 Bass Granger  
 Beauprez Graves  
 Biggert Green (WI)  
 Bilirakis Green, Gene  
 Bishop (GA) Gutknecht  
 Bishop (UT) Hall  
 Blackburn Hart  
 Blunt Hastings (WA)  
 Boehlert Hayes  
 Boehner Hayworth  
 Bonilla Hefley  
 Bonner Hensarling  
 Boozman Herger  
 Boren Herseth  
 Boustany Hobson  
 Boyd Hoekstra  
 Bradley (NH) Holden  
 Brady (TX) Hostettler  
 Brown (SC) Hulshof  
 Brown-Waite, Ginny Hunter  
 Hyde  
 Burgess Inglis (SC)  
 Burton (IN) Issa  
 Buyer Istook  
 Calvert Jenkins  
 Camp (MI) Jindal  
 Campbell (CA) Johnson (CT)  
 Cannon Johnson (IL)  
 Cantor Johnson, Sam  
 Capito Jones (NC)  
 Carter Keller  
 Castle Kelly  
 Chabot Kennedy (MN)  
 Chocola King (IA)  
 Coble King (NY)  
 Cole (OK) Kingston  
 Conaway Kirk  
 Costa Kline  
 Costello Knollenberg  
 Cramer Kolbe  
 Crenshaw Kuhl (NY)  
 Cubin LaHood  
 Cuellar Latham  
 Culberson LaTourette  
 Davis (KY) Leach  
 Davis (TN) Lewis (CA)  
 Davis, Jo Ann Lewis (KY)  
 Davis, Tom Linder  
 Deal (GA) LoBiondo  
 Dent Lucas  
 Diaz-Balart, L. Lungren, Daniel  
 Diaz-Balart, M. E.  
 Doolittle Mack  
 Drake Marchant  
 Dreier Marshall  
 Duncan McCaul (TX)  
 Edwards McCotter  
 Ehlers McCreery  
 Emerson McHenry  
 English (PA) McHugh  
 Everett McKeon  
 Feeney McMorris  
 Ferguson Melancon  
 Flake Mica  
 Foley Miller (FL)  
 Forbes Miller (MI)  
 Fortenberry Miller, Gary  
 Fossella Moran (KS)  
 Foxx Murphy  
 Franks (AZ) Musgrave  
 Frelinghuysen Myrick

NOES—179

Abercrombie Boucher Cleaver  
 Ackerman Brady (PA) Clyburn  
 Allen Brown (OH) Conyers  
 Andrews Brown, Corrine Cooper  
 Baca Butterfield Crowley  
 Baird Capps Cummings  
 Baldwin Capuano Davis (AL)  
 Bean Cardin Davis (CA)  
 Becerra Cardoza Davis (FL)  
 Berkley Carnahan Davis (IL)  
 Berman Carson DeFazio  
 Berry Case DeGette  
 Blumenauer Chandler Delahunt  
 Boswell Clay DeLauro

Dicks Lipinski Roybal-Allard  
 Dingell Lofgren, Zoe Ruppersberger  
 Doggett Lowey Ryan (OH)  
 Doyle Lynch Sabo  
 Emanuel Maloney Salazar  
 Engel Markey Sánchez, Linda  
 Eshoo Matheson T.  
 Etheridge Matsui Sanchez, Loretta  
 Evans McCarthy Sanders  
 Farr McColm (MN) Schakowsky  
 Fattah McDermott Schiff  
 Fitzpatrick (PA) McGovern Schwartz (PA)  
 Frank (MA) McIntyre Scott (GA)  
 Gonzalez McKinney Scott (VA)  
 Green, Al Serrano  
 Grijalva Meehan Shays  
 Gutierrez Meek (FL) Sherman  
 Harman Meeks (NY) Skelton  
 Hastings (FL) Michaud Smith (WA)  
 Higgins Millender- Snyder  
 Hinchey McDonald Solis  
 Hinojosa Miller (NC) Spratt  
 Holt Miller, George Stark  
 Honda Mollohan Strickland  
 Hoolley Moore (KS) Stupak  
 Hoyer Moore (WI) Tanner  
 Inslee Moran (VA) Tauscher  
 Israel Murtha Thompson (CA)  
 Jackson (IL) Nadler Thompson (MS)  
 Jackson-Lee Napolitano Tierney  
 (TX) Neal (MA) Towns  
 Jefferson Obey Udall (CO)  
 Johnson, E. B. Oliver Udall (NM)  
 Jones (OH) Ortiz Van Hollen  
 Kanjorski Owens Velázquez  
 Kaptur Pallone Visclosky  
 Kennedy (RI) Pascrell Wasserman  
 Kildee Pastor Schultz  
 Kilpatrick (MI) Payne Waters  
 Kind Pelosi Watson  
 Kucinich Peterson (MN) Watt  
 Langevin Pomeroy Waxman  
 Larsen (WA) Price (NC) Weiner  
 Larson (CT) Rahall Wexler  
 Lee Rangel Woolsey  
 Levin Ross Wu  
 Lewis (GA) Rothman Wynn

NOT VOTING—15

Bishop (NY) Gibbons Nussle  
 Bono Gohmert Oberstar  
 DeLay Harris Reyes  
 Filner Lantos Rush  
 Ford Manzullo Slaughter

□ 1859

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 232, on final passage of H.R. 5254, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 232, final passage of H.R. 5254, I was in my Congressional District on official business. Had I been present, I would have vote “no.”

#### AMENDING TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 5449.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5449, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 271, nays 148, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 233]

YEAS—271

Grijalva Owens  
 Gutierrez Pallone  
 Hall Pascarell  
 Harman Pastor  
 Hart Paul  
 Hastings (FL) Payne  
 Hayes Pelosi  
 Herseth Peterson (MN)  
 Higgins Platts  
 Hinchey Poe  
 Hinojosa Pombo  
 Holden Pomeroy  
 Holt Porter  
 Honda Price (NC)  
 Hoolley Pryce (OH)  
 Hostettler Rahall  
 Hoyer Ramstad  
 Inslee Rangel  
 Israel Rehberg  
 Issa Reichert  
 Jackson (IL) Renzi  
 Jackson-Lee Ross  
 (TX) Rothman  
 Jefferson Roybal-Allard  
 Jenkins Ruppersberger  
 Johnson (IL) Rush  
 Johnson, E. B. Ryan (OH)  
 Jones (NC) Sabo  
 Jones (OH) Salazar  
 Kanjorski Sánchez, Linda  
 Kaptur T.  
 Kelly Sanchez, Loretta  
 Kennedy (RI) Sanders  
 Kildee Saxton  
 Kilpatrick (MI) Schakowsky  
 Kind Schiff  
 King (NY) Schwartz (PA)  
 Kirk Schwarz (MI)  
 Kline Scott (GA)  
 Case Kucinich Scott (VA)  
 Chandler Kuhl (NY) Serrano  
 Clay Langevin Shays  
 Cleaver Larsen (WA) Sherman  
 Clyburn Larson (CT) Sherwood  
 Cole (OK) LaTourette Shimkus  
 Conyers Lee Shuster  
 Cooper Levin Simmons  
 Costa Lewis (GA) Skelton  
 Costello Lewis (KY) Smith (NJ)  
 Cramer Lipinski Smith (WA)  
 Crowley LoBiondo Snyder  
 Cuellar Lofgren, Zoe Solis  
 Cummings Lowey Spratt  
 Davis (AL) Lynch Stark  
 Davis (CA) Maloney Strickland  
 Davis (FL) Markey Stupak  
 Davis (IL) Marshall Sweeney  
 Davis (KY) Matheson Tanner  
 Davis (TN) Matsui Tauscher  
 Davis, Jo Ann McCarthy Taylor (MS)  
 Davis, Tom McCaul (TX) Thompson (CA)  
 DeFazio McColm (MN) Thompson (MS)  
 DeGette McCotter  
 Delahunt McDermott  
 DeLauro McGovern  
 Dent McHugh  
 Diaz-Balart, L. McIntyre  
 Dicks McKinney  
 Dingell McNulty  
 Doggett Meehan  
 Doyle Meek (FL)  
 Edwards Meeks (NY)  
 Emanuel Melancon  
 Emerson Michaud  
 Engel Millender-  
 English (PA) McDonald  
 Eshoo Miller (NC)  
 Etheridge Miller, George  
 Evans Mollohan  
 Farr Moore (KS)  
 Fattah Moore (WI)  
 Ferguson Moran (KS)  
 Fitzpatrick (PA) Moran (VA)  
 Foley Murphy  
 Fossella Murtha  
 Frank (MA) Nadler  
 Gerlach Napolitano  
 Gilchrest Neal (MA)  
 Gonzalez Ney  
 Gordon Obey  
 Green, Al Oliver  
 Green, Gene Ortiz

NAYS—148

Aderholt Bachus Barrett (SC)  
 Akin Baker Bartlett (MD)

Barton (TX) Goode Neugebauer  
 Beauprez Goodlatte Northup  
 Blackburn Granger Norwood  
 Blunt Graves Nunes  
 Boehner Green (WI) Osborne  
 Bonilla Gutknecht Otter  
 Bonner Harris Oxley  
 Boozman Hastings (WA) Pearce  
 Brady (TX) Hayworth Pence  
 Brown (SC) Hefley Peterson (PA)  
 Brown-Waite, Hensarling Petri  
 Ginny Herger Pickering  
 Burgess Hobson Pitts  
 Burton (IN) Hoekstra Price (GA)  
 Calvert Hulshof Putnam  
 Camp (MI) Hunter Radanovich  
 Campbell (CA) Hyde Reynolds  
 Cannon Inglis (SC) Rogers (AL)  
 Cantor Istook Rogers (KY)  
 Carter Jindal Rogers (MI)  
 Castle Johnson (CT) Rohrabacher  
 Chabot Johnson, Sam Ros-Lehtinen  
 Chocola Keller Royce  
 Coble Kennedy (MN) Ryan (WI)  
 Conaway King (IA) Ryan (KS)  
 Crenshaw Kingston Schmidt  
 Cubin Knollenberg Sensenbrenner  
 Culberson Kolbe Sessions  
 Deal (GA) LaHood Shadegg  
 DeLay Latham Shaw  
 Diaz-Balart, M. Leach Simpson  
 Doolittle Lewis (CA) Smith (TX)  
 Drake Linder Sodrel  
 Dreier Lucas Souder  
 Duncan Lungren, Daniel Stearns  
 Ehlers E. Sullivan  
 Everett Mack Tancredo  
 Feeney Marchant Terry  
 Flake McCrery Thomas  
 Forbes McHenry Thornberry  
 Fortenberry McKeon Turner  
 Foxx McMorris Upton  
 Franks (AZ) Miller (FL) Walden (OR)  
 Frelinghuysen Miller (MI) Wamp  
 Gallegly Miller, Gary Weldon (FL)  
 Garrett (NJ) Musgrave Wicker  
 Gillmor Myrick Wilson (SC)  
 Gingrey

## NOT VOTING—13

Bishop (NY) Gohmert Regula  
 Bono Lantos Reyes  
 Filner Manzullo Slaughter  
 Ford Nussle  
 Gibbons Oberstar

□ 1907

Mr. HUNTER changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So (two-thirds not having voted in favor thereof) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 233, final passage of H.R. 5449, I was in my Congressional District on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

## MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the Senate bill, S. 2803.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2803, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 381, nays 37, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 234]  
 YEAS—381  
 Abercrombie Dingell Kingston  
 Aderholt Doolittle Kirk  
 Akin Doyle Kline  
 Alexander Drake Knollenberg  
 Allen Dreier Kolbe  
 Baca Duncan Kuhl (NY)  
 Bachus Edwards LaHood  
 Baird Ehlers Langevin  
 Baker Emerson Larsen (WA)  
 Baldwin Engel Larson (CT)  
 Barrett (SC) English (PA) Latham  
 Barrow Etheridge LaTourette  
 Bartlett (MD) Evans Leach  
 Barton (TX) Everett Levin  
 Bass Fattah Lewis (CA)  
 Bean Feeney Lewis (KY)  
 Beauprez Ferguson Linder  
 Becerra Fitzpatrick (PA) Lipinski  
 Berkley Foley LoBiondo  
 Berry Forbes Lowey  
 Biggert Fortenberry Lucas  
 Bilirakis Fossella Lungren, Daniel  
 Bishop (GA) Foxx E.  
 Bishop (UT) Frank (MA) Lynch  
 Blackburn Franks (AZ) Maloney  
 Blunt Frelinghuysen Marchant  
 Boehlert Gallegly Markey  
 Boehner Garrett (NJ) Marshall  
 Bonilla Gerlach Matheson  
 Bonner Gilchrest McCarthy  
 Boozman Gillmor McCaul (TX)  
 Boren Gingrey McCotter  
 Boswell Gonzalez McCrery  
 Boucher Goode McGovern  
 Boustany Goodlatte McHenry  
 Boyd Gordon McHugh  
 Bradley (NH) Granger McIntyre  
 Brady (PA) Graves McKeon  
 Brady (TX) Green (WI) McKinney  
 Brown (OH) Green, Al McMorris  
 Brown (SC) Green, Gene McNulty  
 Brown, Corrine Grijalva Meehan  
 Brown-Waite, Gutierrez Meek (FL)  
 Ginny Gutknecht Meeks (NY)  
 Burgess Hall Melancon  
 Burton (IN) Harman Mica  
 Buyer Harris Michaud  
 Calvert Hart Millender-  
 Camp (MI) Hastings (FL) McDonald  
 Campbell (CA) Hastings (WA) Miller (FL)  
 Cannon Hayes Miller (MI)  
 Cantor Hayworth Miller (NC)  
 Capito Hefley Miller, Gary  
 Capuano Hensarling Mollohan  
 Cardin Herger Moore (KS)  
 Cardoza Herseth Moran (KS)  
 Carnahan Higgins Moran (VA)  
 Carson Hinchey Murphy  
 Carter Hinojosa Murtha  
 Case Hobson Musgrave  
 Castle Hoekstra Myrick  
 Chabot Holden Nadler  
 Chandler Holt Napolitano  
 Clay Hoooley Neal (MA)  
 Cleaver Hostettler Neugebauer  
 Clyburn Hoyer Ney  
 Coble Hulshof Northup  
 Cole (OK) Hunter Norwood  
 Conaway Hyde Nunes  
 Cooper Inslee Obe  
 Costa Israel Oliver  
 Costello Issa Ortiz  
 Cramer Istook Osborne  
 Crenshaw Jackson (IL) Otter  
 Crowley Jackson-Lee Owens  
 Cubin (TX) Oxley  
 Cuellar Jefferson Pallone  
 Culberson Jenkins Pascarell  
 Cummings Jindal Pastor  
 Davis (AL) Johnson (CT) Payne  
 Davis (FL) Johnson (IL) Pearce  
 Davis (IL) Johnson, E. B. Pence  
 Davis (KY) Johnson, Sam Peterson (MN)  
 Davis (TN) Jones (NC) Peterson (PA)  
 Davis, Jo Ann Jones (OH) Petri  
 Davis, Tom Kanjorski Pickering  
 Deal (GA) Kaptur Pitts  
 DeFazio Keller Platts  
 DeGette Kelly Pombo  
 Delahunt Kennedy (MN) Pomeroy  
 DeLauro Kennedy (RI) Porter  
 DeLay Kildee Price (GA)  
 Dent Kilpatrick (MI) Price (NC)  
 Diaz-Balart, L. Kind Pryce (OH)  
 Diaz-Balart, M. King (IA) Putnam  
 Dicks King (NY) Radanovich

Rahall Sessions Tierney  
 Ramstad Shadegg Towns  
 Rangel Shaw Turner  
 Regula Shays Udall (CO)  
 Rehberg Sherman Udall (NM)  
 Reichert Sherwood Upton  
 Renzi Shimkus Van Hollen  
 Reynolds Shuster Visclosky  
 Rogers (AL) Simmons Walden (OR)  
 Rogers (KY) Simpson Walsh  
 Rogers (MI) Skelton Wamp  
 Rohrabacher Smith (NJ) Wasserman  
 Ros-Lehtinen Smith (TX) Schultz  
 Ross Smith (WA) Waters  
 Rothman Snyder Watson  
 Roybal-Allard Sodrel Watt  
 Royce Souder Waxman  
 Ruppersberger Spratt Weiner  
 Ryan (OH) Stearns Weldon (FL)  
 Ryan (WI) Strickland Weldon (PA)  
 Ryun (KS) Stupak Weller  
 Sabo Sullivan Westmoreland  
 Salazar Sweeney Wexler  
 Sanders Tancredo Whitfield  
 Saxton Tanner Wicker  
 Schakowsky Taylor (MS) Wilson (NM)  
 Schmidt Taylor (NC) Wilson (SC)  
 Schwartz (PA) Terry Wolf  
 Schwarz (MI) Thomas Wu  
 Scott (GA) Thompson (MS) Wynn  
 Scott (VA) Thornberry Young (AK)  
 Sensenbrenner Tiahrt Young (FL)  
 Serrano Tiberi

## NAYS—37

Ackerman Honda Poe  
 Andrews Ingalls (SC) Rush  
 Berman Kucinich Sanchez, Linda  
 Blumenauer Lee T.  
 Butterfield Lewis (GA) Sanchez, Loretta  
 Capps Lofgren, Zoe Schiff  
 Conyers Matsui Solis  
 Davis (CA) McCollum (MN) Stark  
 Doggett McDermott Tauscher  
 Emanuel Miller, George Thompson (CA)  
 Eshoo Moore (WI) Velázquez  
 Farr Paul Wolsey  
 Flake Pelosi

## NOT VOTING—14

Bishop (NY) Gibbons Nussle  
 Bono Gohmert Oberstar  
 Chocola Lantos Reyes  
 Filner Mack Slaughter  
 Ford Manzullo

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1914

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 234, final passage of S. 2803, I was in my Congressional District on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

□ 1915

## MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the United States Senate is going to likely pass, or at least try to pass, tax legislation to give tax cuts to 800 families in Ohio. Recently, this Congress voted or the Senate voted to cut a college tax credit that would affect 100,000 families in Ohio.

This place is about choices. Give a tax cut to the wealthiest 800 families in Ohio and, in order to pay for that, you eliminate a tax credit for 100,000 working, middle-class families to send their kids to college.

That tells you a whole lot about family values. It tells you that this Congress has betrayed our values by helping the wealthiest taxpayers at the expense of middle-class, working families who simply want the opportunity to send their children to college to reach the American dream.

#### MOVING THE ECONOMY

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, in 2003, our country was in a very tough recession. George Bush took a bold step to reduce taxes. Now, the Democrats did not like to have tax cuts, because they like to spend your money, because they actually believe that the wisdom in Washington is better than the wisdom on Main Street, America. But as a result of tax reduction, we now have five million new jobs since 2003 that have been created.

The unemployment rate is at 4.6 percent, 4.6 percent. That is lower than the unemployment rate was on average in the 1990s, the 1980s, the 1970s, and the 1960s. Sixty-nine percent of Americans own their own house now. It is a historic high not just for the United States of America, but for any country. Fifty-two percent of Americans are invested in the stock market, creating wealth for their themselves. The interest rates are down and the mortgage rates have remained competitive.

The economy is moving because of Bush economic policies. The last thing we need to do right now is increase taxes and throw these great economic policies out the door.

#### RECOGNIZING MORGAN D. SWEERE

(Mr. SNYDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, the winner in my district of "What Rosa Parks Means To Me" essay contest at the elementary school level was Morgan Sweere in the fourth grade, age 9, at Ida Burns Elementary School in Conway, Arkansas. This is her essay:

"Rosa Parks means incredible courage to me. She had the courage to stay in her seat even though society demanded that she give it up to a white person. She was tired and worn out from working. She also knew the consequences of her actions, but she refused to give up her seat on the bus. I can't even imagine the taunts, rude comments, and hostile behavior that she had to go through. She had the courage to stand up to society and the discrimination that was against her.

She knew and felt that her having to give up her seat was wrong, and she made a decision that changed her life and the world. Her one decision made the fight for equal rights more powerful. She had the courage to make that decision and then face the consequences for making that decision even though it made her life very hard.

"Courage is a hard thing to teach. You may think that you have courage only to realize you don't when faced with a tough situation or a situation that goes against your family and friends. Courage means taking a stand and treating people fairly no matter how they are different from you. Courage means standing up for your beliefs."

Mr. Speaker, that is the winner of the "What Rosa Parks Means To Me" essay contest at the elementary school level, Morgan Sweere from Ida Burns Elementary School in Conway, Arkansas.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5230

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask to have my name removed from H.R. 5230.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### SAVINGS GROW WITH SIMPLIFIED USA TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced a new version of legislation that I have introduced in the past, the Simplified USA Tax, or SUSAT, which reforms individual and business taxation while promoting economic growth, investment and personal savings, all tenets of a strong and sustainable economy.

Tonight I would like to focus my remarks on a critical component of SUSAT, which in my view provides a powerful antidote to the national savings crisis that we are combating today.

Mr. Speaker, clearly our Tax Code is too complicated, and it is riddled with obvious inequities. Its current structure punishes savings and investment, which reduces economic and job growth and burdens domestic industry struggling to remain competitive. If Congress is going to succeed in reforming the American tax system, and I believe we must, we need to create a stable

Tax Code that gives Americans a fair opportunity to save part of their earnings.

Thrift has helped provide Americans the security and independence that are the foundation of freedom. Savings buys tools to make Americans more productive. Productivity raises our living standards to the highest in the world. But in recent years America has gone into debt, and it seems like we have stopped saving altogether.

In 2005, stunningly, our national savings rate was in the negative for the first time since the Great Depression. America is facing a quiet crisis, the fact that our economy is now more dependent on foreign capital than on foreign oil.

As you can see in this chart, whether Americans save or not simply does not affect them personally; it impacts on our national economy. As the savings rate has declined, our trade deficit has gone further into the red. Apart from the short-term market gains in the late 1990s, the trade deficit has closely tracked the savings rate. Taking the punitive taxes off of savings and encouraging the practice must be an essential element of reforming the Tax Code because it not only translates into personal savings for working families, but it also has a job creating progrowth macroeconomic impact.

In my tax reform proposal everyone is allowed an unlimited Roth-like savings account in which they can put a portion of each year's income they save after paying taxes and living expenses; and after 5 years all money in the account can be withdrawn for any purpose and all withdrawals, including accumulated interest and other earnings or principal are tax free. Nothing can be simpler and nothing can give the people a better opportunity to save.

While Congress has taken some powerful measures in the past few years to improve the Tax Code, particularly for individual taxpayers, clearly we need to do more. We need fundamental tax reform. For too long the Tax Code has been a needless drag on the economy. That is bad public policy and certainly not fair to Americans whose living standards are lower because of it. It is time that we made some fundamental changes.

I firmly believe that faster economic growth must be the key goal of tax reform, and encouraging Americans to save is one way of achieving that goal. Roth IRAs have a proven track record of increasing savings, and removing red tape, and expanding their impact will go the distance in altering the course of our national savings rate. SUSAT has the potential to serve as part of the groundwork for this kind of reform and ensure that Americans can keep more of their hardworking tax dollars, establish financial security, and invest in their future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. PELOSI addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TURNING HIS BACK ON OHIO

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to claim the gentlewoman's time and address the House for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the people of Ohio are wondering why the Bush administration has turned its back on them. After all, Ohio was the linchpin State in the Bush victory in 2004.

Now, what else can Ohioans think? The Bush administration has just cut the funding for homeland security in Ohio and its major cities by one-third. Over \$8.5 million was cut. Last year, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Toledo, the four largest Ohio cities received \$26.1 million in antiterrorism funding; this year \$17.6 million, an \$8.5 million reduction. Why?

Surely President Bush does not think the terrorist threat has diminished. If he does, perhaps he should read the newspapers. Dateline Toronto, the Canadian Government just broke up an alleged terrorist ring in Ontario Province. That is on the north side of Lake Erie, and Ohio shares a border across that lake with Canada. And that ring apparently possessed enough material, 3 tons of it, to cause an explosion three times larger than that which destroyed the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995.

If that is not enough to think about, Mogadishu, Somalia, has just fallen into the hands of Muslim militia groups in what the New York Times calls "a setback for U.S. policy." Now that failed state might become another stronghold for al Qaeda. That is not good news.

How about Baghdad? The violence in Iraq continues to escalate. And in Kabul the situation in Afghanistan continues to deteriorate. And here in Washington the Bush administration responds by making deeper cuts to homeland security funding to the four largest cities in Ohio.

What did Ohio do that would cause President Bush to turn his back on her? Funding in Columbus, the largest city in the State, will fall from \$7.6 million last year to \$4.3 million this year. Mayor Coleman said that Columbus is the 15th largest city in the country, "and time and again we are being told to do it yourself. Best of luck."

My own hometown of Toledo is being cut from \$5.3 million to \$3.85 million this year. I think the President spent almost that much just on ads during the last campaign in our region. Yet recently in our city, the U.S. Justice Department made national news with the arrests of three men whom it suspects of being potential terrorists. Indeed, Ontario's terrorists drove from

Columbus through Toledo, up to Detroit, across the bridge to Windsor to their Ontario hideouts.

□ 1930

Toledo is a major port on the Great Lakes, literally the crossroads of America.

Our position as a premier international transportation center, with such great proximity to our Nation's population center, is key to our economic vitality. We have to make sure that our air, water, rail, port and surface transportation infrastructure is safe and secure, and we need the Federal Government's help to do exactly that.

At this very moment, this crucial moment in our Nation's history, this President is turning his back on Ohio, the State that delivered for him, turning his back on Toledo and Columbus and Cincinnati and Cleveland. He is turning his back on virtually every city across our country, cutting homeland security funds by over one-third when our communications systems cannot even work interoperably.

No, Mr. President, mission not accomplished. There's still a lot to do. National security is the responsibility of the Federal Government. National security is the job of the Federal Government. Let the record show, Mr. Speaker, that the Bush administration has turned its back on the safety of Ohioans and across this country on the safety of Americans, including especially on our Nation's fourth seacoast.

I hope the Bush administration listens to this message this evening. We need help with homeland security in Ohio, in our major cities and across this Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HELPING OUR VETERANS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to go out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Ohio is home to one million veterans and servicemembers. On May 22, a couple, 3 weeks ago, the Pentagon announced that the names, the Social Se-

curity numbers and other personal information of 26.5 million veterans and their spouses, including most of the 1 million in Ohio, across the country, including every living veteran discharged since 1975, had been stolen from the home of a Department of Veterans Affairs data analyst.

Now, this is a department, the VA, which has a leader, a political appointee, who was rewarded for his service as a national party chair for one of the two political parties, not someone who was put in place because of his lifetime dedication to veterans.

This breach of confidence at the VA is unacceptable. To fix this, our government owes to veterans, we should offer veterans free credit reports and work with America's credit bureaus to waive fees associated with placing security alerts on their credit accounts. We should be willing to reimburse veterans for costs caused by identity theft resulting from this scandal, and we should amend the bankruptcy law passed by this body last year. When the bill was then considered, I opposed it, as did many in this body, in part because it did not extend bankruptcy protections to victims of identity theft, which is what could happen to many of these veterans.

Veterans trusted that their government would protect this personal information. They did not think this Department of Veterans Affairs would be run by a political operative. We must regain that trust by taking the important steps I just mentioned.

Ten days ago, we all honored our veterans and honored those who died in the line of duty on Memorial Day. Once the parades were completed, once the graveside ceremonies were finished, too many politicians came back to Washington, simply not concerned about what happens to veterans in this country.

Negligent policy and irresponsible budgets have endangered the care available to veterans. We have failed to adequately fund the VA health care system to improve the quality of health care, to reduce the wait times for all veterans. As good as the service is at VA hospitals like Brexfield, like Wade Park in greater Cleveland, all over Ohio, and all the VA clinics all over our State, veterans too often have to wait too long for care. We need to provide enhanced mental health care service for soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Returning veterans should have access to first-rate education benefits through an enhanced 21st century GI bill and job training programs. Current benefits for vets with 4 years of active duty military service cover less than two-thirds of the average cost of tuition and fees at a 4-year public college. We should be covering more of that cost.

We must not forget, it is not just the veterans; it is the families and children of servicemembers and veterans who also are sacrificing for their country.

We should recognize and reward their sacrifices by helping to ease the burden they carry while their loved ones are deployed.

We should protect family budgets by giving tax breaks to maintain reservists' family income. We should support tax incentives to help ensure that reservists called up for active duty do not suffer a pay cut. We should offer financial incentives to small businesses that want to do the right thing and be patriotic, that allow activated reservists to return to their good jobs.

No other group of Americans has stood stronger, has stood braver for our democracy, for our way of life than our servicemembers and veterans. They deserve a government for a change, not one that has shortchanged them, not one that celebrates Memorial Day and Veterans Day and then turns its back on veterans, like far too many people in this body that would rather give tax breaks to the rich and then cut veterans' benefits. That is not what we need.

Veterans deserve, all of us deserve, a government that is committed to the same values that those soldiers, those Marines, those veterans fought to preserve.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HONORING AMERICA'S FALLEN IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the 62nd anniversary of D Day. On that day, thousands of young Americans made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation.

In the words of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, each of these heroes stand in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live and grow and increase in its blessings.

This unbroken line continues today as 2,778 brave American men and women have fallen in their service to our Nation in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Last year, I led a bipartisan group of 21 Members of Congress in reading the names of our most recent fallen into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. We made a commitment to continue this reading as long as the fighting continues.

God bless and keep each of the brave Americans whose memory we honor today in our hearts:

1. Sergeant 1st Class Eric P. Pearrow.

2. Private 1st Class Marc A. Delgado.
3. Staff Sergeant Steven C. Reynolds.
4. Specialist Javier A. Vallnueva.
5. Specialist Gregory L. Tull.
6. Master Sergeant Brett E. Angus.
7. Sergeant Donald J. Hasse.
8. Sergeant Jerry W. Mills, Jr.
9. Corporal William G. Taylor.
10. Staff Sergeant William D. Richardson.
11. Corporal Joshua D. Snyder.
12. Sergeant Gregorz Jakoniuk.
13. Sergeant 1st Class Brent A. Adams.
14. Lance Corporal Craig N. Watson.
15. Sergeant Andy A. Stevens.
16. Lance Corporal Andrew G. Patten.
17. Lance Corporal Scott T. Modeen.
18. Corporal Anthony T. McElveen.
19. Lance Corporal Robert Alexander Martinez.
20. Lance Corporal Adam Wade Kaiser.
21. Lance Corporal David A. Huhn.
22. Lance Corporal John M. Holmason.
23. Staff Sergeant Daniel J. Clay.
24. Specialist Marcus S. Futrell.
25. Staff Sergeant Phillip L. Travis.
26. Sergeant Philip Allan Dodson, Jr.
27. Corporal Jimmy Lee Shelton.
28. Staff Sergeant Daniel M. Cuka.
29. Sergeant 1st Class Richard L. Schild.
30. Private 1st Class Thomas C. Siekert.
31. Specialist Brian A. Wright.
32. Sergeant Michael C. Taylor.
33. Corporal Joseph P. Bier.
34. Staff Sergeant Milton Rivera-Vargas.
35. 1st Lieutenant Kevin J. Smith.
36. Sergeant Spencer C. Akers.
37. Sergeant Adrian N. Orosco.
38. Sergeant Kenith Casica.
39. Staff Sergeant Travis L. Nelson.
40. Sergeant Clarence L. Floyd, Jr.
41. Sergeant Julia v. Atkins.
42. Staff Sergeant Keith A. Bennett.
43. Sergeant 1st Class James S. Moudy.
44. Staff Sergeant Curtis A. Mitchell.
45. Specialist Lex S. Nelson.
46. Specialist Jared William Kubasak.
47. Specialist Peter J. Navarro.
48. Specialist James C. Kesinger.
49. Sergeant Brian C. Karim.
50. Staff Sergeant Michael S. Zyla.
51. Corporal Michael B. Presley.
52. Staff Sergeant Kenneth B. Pospisil.
53. Sergeant Timothy R. Boyce.
54. Specialist Joseph Alan Lucas.
55. Corporal Adam R. Fales.
56. Lance Corporal Samuel Tapia.
57. Staff Sergeant Johnnie V. Mason.
58. Specialist Richard Jr. DeGarcia Naputi.
59. 1st Lieutenant Michael J. Cleary.
60. Specialist William Lopez-Feliciano.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize and thank the brave men and women who continue to serve our Nation with distinction in Iraq and Afghanistan and throughout the world and thank their families also for their sacrifice.

Our thoughts, our prayers are with you and your families both during your service and after you come home.

Mr. Speaker, if I mispronounced any of our members' names who I know the family take pride in honoring, I apologize. I want to thank again each of these men and women who have served our country and their family for their ultimate sacrifice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. FOXX addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### BUDGET DEFICITS

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to assume the time of the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, a few months ago, a columnist for the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain wrote a column saying that we were headed for a "financial tsunami" not long after the baby boomers start retiring in large numbers over the next few years. The reasons are really pretty simple.

First, we are trying to do way too much for other countries. We have spent \$300 billion in the last 3 years in Iraq and Afghanistan, probably over half of it is just pure foreign aid. We have every department and agency in the Federal Government doing operations overseas, spending several hundred billion a year over there.

The liberals found out years ago that foreign aid was not popular so they will very falsely tell you that foreign aid is only 1 or 1½ percent of the budget. When we add up what all the departments and agencies are doing, it is just phenomenal how much we are spending in other countries.

I heard a news report recently that said the FBI has more offices in other countries than we have in the U.S.

Secondly, we have promised too much here at home in retirement and medical benefits.

Thirdly, we will not reduce defense or homeland security spending even though there is waste in those departments, just like all the other departments, and there just simply is not enough money to pay for all of it.

On January 26 of this year, the Congressional Budget Office said the Federal deficit for this fiscal year, which ends September 30, will be around \$360 billion. Some people say it will be much higher than that, and similar amounts, \$350 billion to \$400 billion for each of the next 10 or 11 years.

□ 1945

All of this comes on top of the national debt that is already \$8.3 trillion



and headed up very quickly. Our government, in just a few years, will not be able to pay all of the military pensions, the civil service pensions, the Social Security, the Medicare, the Medicaid, and the new prescription drug benefit. We have guaranteed 44 million private pensions through the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. We will just not be able to pay all those things with money that means anything.

But what we will do, we will do what governments all over the world have done in similar situations, and we will simply begin printing more money. This will cause Social Security and all those government and private pension plans to buy less each year.

It doesn't work. It is like a ball headed downhill. It starts out slow and gathers speed. When this money supply gimmick does not do enough, pensions will have to be cut. Anyone who is relying just on Social Security for his or her retirement will face tremendous financial hardship.

All of this could be avoided if the Congress would become much more fiscally conservative and do it now. However, because there are too many liberal big spenders in the Congress, and because it is unpopular to say "no" to anyone, the Congress could not even, late last year, pass a \$50 billion slowdown in spending spread over the next 5 years. The overall reduction was reduced to \$39.5 billion, with the bulk of the reductions put off until the fourth and fifth years. The plan that was passed did not cut spending, it simply slowed the rate of growth, barely. But, of course, even that very meager effort at fiscal restraint could be changed by the next Congress.

Now, let me go to a totally different topic, Mr. Speaker, another concern.

At the end of 1994, the conservative business magazine, *Forbes*, carried a lengthy article about the Justice Department. It said we had quadrupled the Justice Department since 1980, and that Federal prosecutors were falling all over themselves trying to find cases to prosecute. The article said people were being prosecuted for laws they didn't even know were in existence. And then the Congress, trying to prove it was tough on crime, has expanded the Department of Justice greatly since then.

In addition to all this expansion, we then passed a so-called PATRIOT Act to try to show strong opposition to terrorism. This was such a great expansion of government power and such an overreach that now approximately 400 cities and counties and seven State legislatures have passed resolutions against this act. Those who love big government love the PATRIOT Act.

The Federal Government, through the super-secret National Security Agency, in addition to the CIA, FBI, and about 12 other intelligence agencies, has more than enough power and ways and means to discover and prosecute terrorists. The Foreign Intel-

ligence Surveillance Act Court, created in 1978, approved 18,742 warrants for wiretapping and physical surveillance by the end of 2004. In the 5 years from 2000 to 2004, the court received 6,650 requests from the government and approved 6,642.

We will probably have another terrorist incident of some sort with or without the PATRIOT Act. We need to take reasonable precautions, but we also need to recognize that you are still hundreds of times more likely to be struck by lightning or to win a lottery than you are to be killed by a terrorist. Those in charge of all the many government programs which have sprung up to fight terrorism do not like to admit this because they want continual increases in funding. But, Mr. Speaker, we should not create some kind of a Federal police state in a huge overreaction to this threat.

It is sad that conservatives, who have always been the main opponents of big government, have gone along with this huge expansion of government power just because the word "terrorism" is used by every government agency to get more money and power.

#### A TURNING POINT IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, President Bush said that we had reached a turning point in Iraq. Given that he declared "Mission Accomplished" and the end of major combat operations more than 3 years ago, I would say it is about time we reached a turning point.

But as the Washington Post pointed out, this kind of turning point language is pretty commonplace for the President. There have been many milestones. There have been many turning points from this White House, even a turning point in the history of freedom over the last several years. The President should ask the people who risk their lives, their bodies, and their minds every day, just walking down the streets of Baghdad, if they see a turning point. We should ask the Iraqi citizens how they see it.

The day after the President's last attempt at spin, more than 30 Iraqis were murdered in violent attacks. They joined tens of thousands of other innocent civilians, many of them children, who have died for the cause of their so-called "liberation." There are some rumblings now about drawing down our troop levels, but we have heard that before, and I will believe it when I see it, and I will believe it to be real when the President puts forward a plan on how he is going to end this war.

Mr. Speaker, I have yet to hear the President disavow his statement that the decision to bring our troops home will be for future Presidents to decide. I have yet to hear a clear denial from the administration that we have plans

to build permanent military bases in Iraq. If there is some kind of reduction in U.S. forces, my fear is that it will be a cosmetic change only, driven more by the political calendar than any kind of strategic consideration, ultimately making the troops left in Iraq even more vulnerable than they are now.

The answer is not to get down to 100,000 troops by the end of the year, because incremental steps are not enough. There must be a plan to immediately end this occupation and bring every last one of our soldiers home. The longer they stay, the longer suicide bombings will persist, because our very presence is one of the principal causes of the violence.

That is not our soldiers' fault. Of course, it isn't. They have performed their services faithfully and courageously. It is their civilian supervisors who have miscalculated at every turn. It is the President, the Vice President, and the Secretary of Defense who refuse to see that our military presence is fueling the rage of the insurgency, intensifying hatred for America, and stoking the fires of civil war.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for an entirely new approach to Iraq. It is time for the United States to show real global leadership by helping assemble a multinational security force to help keep Iraq stable in the short term. It is time to help establish an international peace commission under the auspices of the U.N. to begin the Iraq postwar reconciliation process. It is time to turn Iraq over to the Iraqi people. It is time to stop being Iraq's military occupier and start being Iraq's reconstruction partner. It is time to rebuild the country we have torn apart and to do it with an emphasis on transparency and accountability and not on padding Halliburton's profit margins.

But before we take these steps, before we do anything, we must end the war and bring our troops home to their families, where they belong. That is the turning point that will make a real difference in the Iraq situation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TRIBUTE TO PAT T. DEON, SR.

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Pat T. Deon, Sr., a constituent of mine who will be honored tomorrow at the 2006 annual scholarship luncheon at the Justinian

Society of Philadelphia for his contributions to the business community in the Philadelphia region and the community of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where he lives with his family.

Since 1935, the Justinian Society has searched, as the premier legal organization in the Philadelphia area, for Americans of Italian ancestry. Comprised of attorneys, judges, and law students, the society has directed itself to maintaining the honor of our legal system and the high ethical standards that distinguish its practice in our society. The Justinian Society accomplishes its mission by promoting continuing legal education programs, offering scholarships to Italian American law students and by promoting civic engagement by the legal community.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Deon is a respected member of the Bucks County community. A successful businessman and entrepreneur, Pat has become a leader in his region, serving on numerous local and statewide boards and commissions. Since 1995, Pat Deon has been a volunteer member of the Board of Directors of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority and has been its chairman since 1999. Since being named chairman of SEPTA, Pat Deon has transformed this \$3 billion public transportation asset from an organization wracked by inefficiency to a model of progress and competence.

With SEPTA well in hand, Pat turned his attention to our highways in 2002 when he was appointed to a 4-year term as a member of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

Besides his public works, Pat Deon is also actively involved in community service. He is vice chairman of the Board of Directors of Temple Lower Bucks Hospital, a board member of the Bucks County Community College Foundation, and the Bucks County Enterprise Zone.

In addition to these endeavors, both Pat and his wife, Carlene, are strong supporters of the Special Olympics, the American Red Cross, and Race for a Cure. His work with the Special Olympics alone has allowed a delegation of 116 athletes and coaches to attend the first-ever USA National Games in Iowa.

For many this would be enough, but Pat has also excelled in business. Pat Deon has completed residential and commercial real estate projects in Bucks and Montgomery Counties and construction services in the northeast region. He is the owner of WBCB-AM Radio in Bucks County and a successful restaurateur through his ownership of the Temperance House Restaurant and Inn located in Newtown Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no better person deserving the honor of the Justinian Society than Pat Deon. His success is a clear example of the American dream and that it is indeed alive and well.

In addition to serving as a model of success, Pat Deon is also an example of

modesty. He never searches for the spotlight and never creates fanfare or publicity for his good works. I am proud to represent him in the Congress and am proud to acknowledge him here today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### SALUTE TO COLLEAGUE AND THE WAR IN IRAQ

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I assume the time of Mr. PALLONE of New Jersey.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker for recognizing me at the time shortly after my colleague LYNN WOOLSEY has spoken, because I rise to salute LYNN WOOLSEY as a great point of inspiration to her colleagues and for all Americans who are fighting to end the deadly, wasteful war in Iraq.

I rise at this particular time because yesterday was Primary Day in California, and Congresswoman WOOLSEY had a challenge. I do not think that challenge was unrelated to her position on the war in Iraq. I think the challenge was a frontal attack on the majority of Americans who now disapprove of this administration's actions in Iraq. I think that the candidacy of the opposition was a not-very-subtle attempt to intimidate the leading spokesperson of the peace movement. I think it was a blatant effort to send a message.

Congresswoman WOOLSEY is supported, fortunately, by the constituents in her district. Everybody knows that. Congresswoman WOOLSEY has been here for 14 years. She has a great record in areas ranging from child care to policies related to the war in Iraq.

I want to congratulate her on a stunning, decisive victory. There was never any doubt of her winning, but she swept the field. I think with almost a two-to-one vote.

The voters sent a message to all those who would challenge her and try to silence her that they care about what is happening in the world, they care about what is happening in Iraq. They are the majority, just as right now the majority of the people in America are against the war in Iraq.

Her wide margin reaffirms support for her positions.

No one has spoken more passionately and consistently against the war on this floor than LYNN WOOLSEY. I think she has a record of floor speeches, 5-minute speeches. About 149 5-minute speeches have been made against the war in Iraq.

The bold move of the war supporters to go after her, to get newspapers to call her a radical and clamor for a more moderate voice, all of these things did not happen by accident. I think it was a plot. In her 14 years, LYNN WOOLSEY has earned the right not to be challenged. She has a unique point of view based on her unique set of experiences. I serve with her on the Education Committee. There is much to be discussed about Iraq and the war in Iraq, and not enough time is ever allowed to do it. I think she has chosen the only avenue possible.

We have not discussed very important matters, like the oil contracts. What is happening with the plan to disperse the oil in Iraq after the U.S. leaves? Nobody ever talks about that. How much of the oil revenue will flow to American corporations for technical assistance and rebuilding versus to the Iraqi people?

□ 2000

Underlying the problem of getting the settlement, the question is never discussed. Power sharing is discussed. Getting the government set up is discussed.

Senator BIDEN was ridiculed for saying you ought to take Iraq and split it up into three parts, one for Sunnis, one for the Shiites and one for the Kurds. I do not think that general proposal is all he meant, but power sharing is a major issue. Why can't we discuss power sharing. We have the Voting Rights Act here in America, one of the best examples of power sharing in the world.

Other nations are looking at us and trying to find out how do you have a minority represented when the majority is a very different group. How can you get the minority to the table? There are ways to do that, and power-sharing ought to be discussed openly. Maybe they need a Voting Rights Act in Iraq. That could be put on the table as part of the solution to guarantee to the Sunnis and that Kurds that despite the Shiites being in the majority, they will always have a place at the table.

As far as orderly withdrawal of the troops, I think Congressman MURTHA, an expert if there ever was one, a man who knows the military very well, has proposed a very conservative but effective way to draw down the troops. Nobody knows better than Congressman MURTHA what is happening in that war. He goes frequently to visit the wounded at Walter Reed Hospital and at the Naval Hospital. He knows the dilemma of the men on the ground, the troops there. He knows and that is why he spoke out so forcefully about the situation in Haditha. He knows that under

pressure, people will break. The best Marines and the best Army people and the best Navy people will break under pressure in a war that they think is useless.

We might have had the favor of the Iraqi people when we went in there, we might have had some flag waving and had some people that appreciated us, but we took away their electricity, we took away their water, and we took away their safety so there is a lot to be discussed and we should all value LYNN WOOLSEY for the fact that she comes frequently to discuss Iraq on this floor and does a great service for the Iraq people, as well as for the Members of this House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SODREL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SODREL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### HONORING HENRY HYDE

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SODREL).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished chair of the Middle East Subcommittee, Ms. ROSLEHTINEN, for putting together a Special Order this evening for one of the finest persons ever to serve in the United States Congress, our hero, HENRY HYDE.

I have been blessed during my service in Congress every day for the last 12 years because I have been able to call HENRY HYDE "Mr. Chairman" first on the Judiciary Committee, and then for the last 6 years on the International Relations Committee, because he has been the chairman of both those committees.

He is a leader who has won the undying respect of colleagues on both sides of the aisle. He is known to be fair and respectful. He is a man of the utmost integrity, and he wields the gavel with grace and humor. The Almanac of American Politics has called him "one of the most respected and intellectually honest members of the House." Politics in America notes that "few can match him in the sheer power of his oratory or the agility of his intellect."

You know, if central casting in Hollywood were looking for someone to play the role of the wise and honorable committee chairman, it would need to look no further than HENRY HYDE.

It would be impossible to talk about HENRY HYDE and not talk about the one issue that I think he has cared more about than all of the other issues that he has dealt with here as a Mem-

ber of this House, and that is the pro-life issue. He has been Congress' conscientious. He has been the Nation's conscientious on this important issue. HENRY HYDE has been a leader who has never wavered on behalf of unborn babies. We have had many distinguished Members of Congress who have engaged in this discussion, this issue, this battle, but nobody has been more committed or more effective or more eloquent than HENRY HYDE.

When he leaves this Congress, he will be greatly missed, but he will leave behind a committed band of followers who have learned under his tutelage and will keep the pro-life flame burning. We owe it to those unborn babies, and we owe it to our leader, HENRY HYDE.

For the last 6 years, Chairman HYDE has headed up the International Relations Committee. And as members of the committee, we know that HENRY commands the respect of leaders throughout the world. When presidents and prime ministers and kings and sultans and emirs and chancellors and other leaders come here to Washington, they make it a point to pay a visit to Chairman HENRY HYDE because they respect him greatly and they seek his guidance and his counsel.

HENRY has also been a great friend to me personally. I cannot thank HENRY enough for all of the things that he has done for me since I first came to this institution. It has been wonderful to be his friend. But more importantly, I want to thank him on behalf of those defenseless little babies that he so tirelessly has defended during his years in Congress.

His eloquence and good sense has changed the way that Americans feel about abortion. He tells it like it is, and he has paved the way for another generation of leaders to fight this noble battle. It is a battle that I have no doubt that one day we will win.

Mr. Speaker, when the 110th Congress convenes next January, the Capitol of the United States will be a different place. For the first time in 32 years, HENRY HYDE won't be taking the oath of office to represent the 6th District of Illinois in the United States House of Representatives. For those of us that have had the honor to serve in this Chamber, there will be a sense of loss. But I know that our friend, HENRY HYDE, will have plenty to contribute to his beloved country. A couple of years ago, HENRY told a Chicago newspaper "maybe I lost a step or two, but I don't think God is through with me yet." Let's hope not. God bless you, HENRY HYDE, and God bless the country that you have loved so much.

#### EXECUTIVE ORDER ON SYRIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleague, Mr.

OWENS, in commending Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY for her consistent and strong voice in opposition to the war in Iraq. It is a voice that is needed in this Congress. She utters words and takes positions that are needed, that we need to hear in this Congress, and those positions reflect the positions of the American people and the people in her district. I have had the opportunity to actually visit her district, and I know that LYNN speaks well with respect to the issues and their position on this war.

I would like to talk about another aspect of President Bush's Middle East policy that I think could be problematic for us if the interpretation is one along the lines of the interpretation of information that was received that led us into the war in Iraq.

What I am talking about is the April 26 national emergency that was declared by President Bush. On that day, he issued an executive order to freeze the assets of those suspected to have been involved in the October 1, 2004, assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 22 others. On the face of it, this might look like a straightforward attempt to bring justice to the perpetrators of a heinous act of terrorism. But I decided I would not just rest with the Speaker's announcement, the Clerk's announcement, and that I would actually read the document. I read the document, and then I reread the document, and then I read it for a third time.

When we examine the language of the document, we have to ask ourselves are there some other motives involved in the issuance of this executive order.

The reason I say that is because of the language that is used in the executive order. It says that this executive order applies to persons involved in "any other bombing that implicates the government of Syria or its officers or agents."

Now the keyword is "implicate" because that means that you are talking about bringing into intimate or incriminating connection. Well, I remember, and I was not in this body in 2003, but the President chose to invade Iraq in 2003 because we were told that Iraq was implicated in possessing weapons of mass destruction. That Iraq was implicated in the tragic events of September 11.

We now know that both of those implications were false, but that is after nearly 2,500 young men and women from these shores have been killed, countless thousands others have either mangled bodies or addled minds as a result of the shock and the shell shock and the presence in the theater of war.

How many tens of thousands of Iraqis are now dead as a result of the implications that the American people were told and then action taken on those implications?

Now once again, the President is implicating an Arab regime and taking action that preempts a conclusive investigation into the facts.

This administration has already made ominous utterances about the need for regime change in both Syria and Iran, and I would just ask this Congress before it relinquishes any more power, please examine the facts before we plunge ourselves into another military disaster in the Middle East.

#### HONORING HENRY HYDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. HARRIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary service to the Nation of Representative HENRY HYDE of Illinois. Many of us consider our election to Congress as a blessing and an opportunity to improve the lives of our constituents and our fellow Americans, and no one has merited that honor more than this esteemed and distinguished gentleman of irrefutable conviction and compassion.

In his more than 30 years as a Member of the House of Representatives and as chairman of the Committee on International Relations, Congressman HYDE has given the most vulnerable citizens a voice and focused our minds on the modern day horrors of child slavery, famine and genocide.

It was in his freshman term that colleagues would first become aware of his passionate devotion to the defense of innocent life, all human life, and at that time, tax dollars of all Americans were devoted to funding nearly 300,000 abortions annually.

Through the appropriations process, Mr. HYDE introduced an amendment to prohibit this practice and the adoption of the Hyde amendment forever changed the course of our national discussion about life and its protections.

I have considered my service on the House International Relations Committee under Chairman HYDE's stewardship as one of the most rewarding and enlightening experiences of my time in Congress. Not content to simply fund projects or engage in academic debates about geopolitics and Real Politic, our committee has played a critical role in shepherding the foreign affairs of the Nation.

The chairman's leadership has been indispensable as our Nation entered a new age of warfare and a time of bolder, more vibrant diplomacy.

A veteran of the committee, Chairman HYDE has been heard in the halls of Congress and countless administrations in the crucial interest about international arms control, the expansion of NATO, the investigation of the Iran-Contra affair and the long-overdue need for reform of the United Nations.

Earlier this year, Chairman HYDE eloquently addressed the challenges facing our Nation and the world, "We are well advanced into an unformed era in which new and unfamiliar enemies are gathering forces, where a phalanx of aspiring competitors must inevi-

tably constrain and focus our options. In a world where the ratios of strength narrow, the consequences of miscalculation will become progressively more debilitating."

□ 2015

The chairman's cogent argument in favor of a robust foreign policy has fueled the committee during the 109th Congress. The committee has led the way in U.N. reform, holding to account the privileged few of the United Nations who turned a blind eye as Saddam Hussein violated international law and basic human rights.

He has called attention to the tragic human drama that began long ago and today is simply known as Darfur. And most importantly, Chairman HYDE has worked to ensure the voice of this body is heard on matters of nuclear proliferation, the untenable policies of terrorist regimes, and forged ahead where Americans will stand as the world struggles through this unformed era.

Throughout his career, HENRY HYDE has never failed to heed his own counsel nor to lose his way. And the principles of basic rights and wrongs have guided his path forward.

His most important contribution, however, has been as a husband, father and grandfather. I am certain it is this job that he has enjoyed most.

In closing, I wish to thank Congressman HENRY HYDE for his extraordinary leadership, his friendship and his scholarship. We are truly a better people as a consequence of his service and for knowing him personally.

#### THE ALLEN SMALL BUSINESS PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to discuss the circumstances of the small business community in Maine and across the country. Regardless of size or industry, small businesses throughout the country share a common set of challenges: skyrocketing health care and fuel costs, an unstable and outdated Federal tax structure, an insufficient labor supply and lack of qualified workers, a lack of access to Federal contracts and inadequate funding for entrepreneurial assistance programs for start-up businesses and businesses that want to grow.

And it is my experience here that many of the organizations in Washington that hold themselves out as small business organizations are really advocating, in reality, a big business agenda.

Back in my home State of Maine, small business is big business. Maine is home to over 140,000 small businesses, and we have nearly 100,000 Mainers who are self-employed. Our prosperity de-

pends on the growth and the success of small business.

I have two bills, H.R. 5288, the Small Business Health Plans Act, and H.R. 5058, the Small Business Investment and Promotion Act, that would both aid small businesses by addressing many of the challenges that they face today.

Small businesses across America are struggling to maintain health care coverage for their workers. Really, most of the people I talk to every year find their premiums going up and find it very difficult to predict how much their health insurance will cost for the next year, assuming they have coverage.

My plan, under the bill H.R. 5288, makes quality health insurance more affordable and makes it easier for small businesses to obtain coverage for their employees. I believe that employees are entitled to the same coverage that Members of Congress and other Federal employees have. That is what my Small Business Health Plans bill provides.

The legislation would establish a small employer health benefits program for employers with 50 or fewer employees by creating new purchasing tools that would guarantee quality coverage at affordable rates to small businesses and their employees without preempting State requirements, much the way the coverage for Federal employees works.

One aspect of the bill would be to attract insurance companies by subsidizing the cost of catastrophic health care cases, and that would bring private insurers into this market and make the plan attractive.

Second, we would provide some premium assistance for smaller businesses and lower-wage workers.

Now, the second bill, H.R. 5058, has six different sections that cover the other difficulties that I mentioned at the beginning. First, the high cost of fuel for transportation and heat in winter is breaking the backs of small business owners, and no relief is in sight. H.R. 5058 creates a 2-year tax credit to cover the increased cost of fuel for businesses that are especially dependent on transportation fuel or the fuel to heat businesses and buildings.

Second, the Research and Development Tax Credit has never been made permanent, and that creates a great deal of uncertainty among businesses, large and small. This tax credit, if made permanent, would help companies stay afloat until they become profitable and would benefit all manufacturers for products that they develop by expending money on R&D. And my bill would make the credit permanent, and allow biotech and high-tech companies to make innovation a part of their long-term business plan.

Third, the Federal Government must do a better job of providing opportunity for small business to compete and win Federal contracts. My bill expands opportunities for small business

by including overseas contracts which are currently excluded from Federal small business contracting targets. This is a real gap. Big business can compete for overseas contracts, but small businesses are shut out simply by the fact of the size of their business.

Fourth, the President's budget request this year called for cuts or elimination of 75 percent of the programs that benefit small business. It is hard to believe that an administration that says it favors business is, in fact, trying to kill the section 7(a) loan program for the Small Business Administration and trying to eliminate the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

The final two provisions: We would create a 39-year tax depreciation rule for restaurants and small retailers and make it easier for businesses to obtain H-1B and H-2B visas.

#### HONORING HENRY HYDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I am honored to take this floor to sing the praises and accolades for a man who inspired me as a young person and has continued to inspire me as I have served here in these past 18 years.

I have spent 18 years here in the House of Representatives, and 7 years before that I served in the White House under Ronald Reagan. And I am pleased to say tonight that during that entire time, I have never met a man of whom I was more proud than that of the chairman of the International Relations Committee, Chairman HENRY HYDE. Perhaps Ronald Reagan. Perhaps. But HENRY HYDE, of the people that I have worked with as a fellow colleague, there is no match.

HENRY HYDE, of course, has been here since 1974, and has had a distinguished career as a Member of Congress, but more importantly, as a leader, as an American leader. HENRY HYDE, as I say, inspired many of us by the fact that he is not just a political leader, not just a man of integrity, courage, and a person who works, to this day is working harder than most Members of this Congress.

But he is not just a political leader, but a moral leader of this country as well.

HENRY HYDE is very well known. He has been known for many years for his views on what we call the prolife movement, the idea of protecting unborn children from the threat of abortion. And HENRY HYDE has done more to inspire and inform people on this issue and, thus, if you agree with me and agree with HENRY, done more to save the unborn babies of this country than any other individual that I can think of. That, alone, is a reason to applaud HENRY HYDE and to be grateful that he has served in this body, saving so many

unborn babies, and feeling so strongly about this issue that he was able to take the heat on an issue that, in the beginning, was far more unpopular than it is today. And I believe that he has created the national trend towards life that we see today.

Consistent with that, HENRY HYDE has been a champion of human rights during his entire term in the United States Congress. He has been an enemy to tyrants, to gangsters, whether they be in Cuba, the Soviet Union or China. This has been part of HENRY HYDE's patriotic makeup, a man from Illinois, a man from the State that gave us Lincoln, who freed the slaves and freed America from the sin of slavery.

I have seen HENRY HYDE criticize Chinese leaders to their face and stand up for the human rights of believers in God in China. I have seen his courage, and his eloquence is famous throughout the world.

I have seen HENRY HYDE take on the issue of proliferation of nuclear materials by the Communist Chinese Government when other people would have had him soft-pedal the issue in order to maintain a certain friendly relationship with those gangsters who control the mainland of China. But HENRY HYDE is a man of principle.

HENRY HYDE is a patriot. HENRY HYDE was protecting our country through his patriotism when he was a young man and served in the military in World War II in the Philippines, and then in the State legislature in Illinois, and then here, on to the U.S. Congress.

Many people will remember HENRY HYDE for the fact that he was the chairman of the Judiciary Committee when President Clinton was impeached. Here, too, was an issue that HENRY HYDE could have sidestepped. Why should he take all the abuse of such a controversial issue?

HENRY HYDE has taken on controversy because he believes in principle and morality. HENRY HYDE took on the issue of the impeachment of President Clinton because he believed that President Clinton had committed perjury, that that was an impeachable offense, and that to compromise that standard would cause great damage to the future of the United States of America.

HENRY HYDE is a man who stands for standards, stands for principles. He is a man who has worked hard, who has used his skill as an orator to make sure that we cement those American values that have made this country a great country, realizing that we don't have a perfect country, but that we always need leaders like HENRY HYDE to help us perfect those imperfections.

So I gladly join with my colleagues tonight in a salute to the chairman of the International Relations Committee, a great American, a man who has served this country well, in the House of Representatives and throughout his life, Chairman HENRY HYDE.

#### WHAT THE LIFE OF ROSA PARKS MEANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SNYDER. Earlier this evening, Mr. Speaker, I read the essay, the winning essay from Morgan Sweere, age 9, in the fourth grade in Conway, Arkansas. And the title of the essay contest, "What Rosa Parks Means to Me." I would like to read two other winners.

The next one is "What Rosa Parks Will Mean to My Children." This is the junior high level essay contest that we held. And the winner of this one in the Second District of Arkansas was Brenna Gilstrap, of the eighth grade at Horace Mann Arts and Science Magnet Middle School in Little Rock, Arkansas. And this is what Brenna Gilstrap has to say, in part, about What Rosa Parks Will Mean for My Children:

"Rosa Parks has always been an amazing icon to people everywhere, symbolizing strength and pride during a period in America where racism thrived. I believe everyone is familiar with her story, how she refused to give up her seat on the bus to another person and she had to simply because they were Caucasian, and how she was arrested for doing so. This story of a brave woman standing up for what she believed in will, in my opinion, greatly influence the attitudes of my children, teaching them important morals. Speak your mind even if your voice shakes. Ban ignorance and pay attention to the mistakes made in the past in order to prevent them in the future. Always stand up for what you believe in because even one little person could make a difference in thousands of lives. These are the things that my children will learn from her story. This is why it will mean something.

"Examine the first moral. Speak your mind even if your voice shakes. What this means is that even if you are nervous, even if you know the consequences to what you are saying can be brutal, as long as you feel deeply in your heart that a change needs to be made, express what you feel. Say exactly what you're thinking and say why. Rosa Parks knew that the fuss she was making wasn't just about a good seat. It was about rights, equal rights for one and all. The right to sit in the good seats, use the good bathrooms, go to the good parties, live the good life, a life without oppression."

And her essay goes on. This is by Brenna Gilstrap, the winner of the What Rosa Park Will Mean for My Children essay contest in the Second District of Arkansas, and Brenna is in the eighth grade at Horace Mann Arts and Science Magnet Middle School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The winner of the high school version of the contest, "What Rosa Parks Will Mean for My Grandchildren," was won by Alyx Vanness, Conway High School East.

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This is her essay in part. "What I would like my grandchildren to remember about Rosa Parks is the true account of her stand for equality for blacks, and the many features she overcame along the way. Even though she is usually remembered for only one of her protests, I would like my grandchildren to know all the rallies she took part in during her life and how it affected the black community."

Rosa Parks became one of the most recognizable civil rights activists on December 1, 1955, when she refused to give up her seat on a bus for a white man. Although a simple act with one woman protesting, it is one of her most remembered fights for justice among the races. The incident is later recalled by Parks in her book *Quiet Strength*. "I kept thinking about my mother and my grandparents and how strong they were. I knew there was a possibility of being mistreated, but an opportunity was being given to me to do what I had asked of others."

"Rosa Parks did just that when not going back to the colored section of the bus when a white man had told her to. Most historians account the refusal because she was tired from a long day's work, but to Parks it was more than that. I would like my grandchildren to be told that she did it specifically to stand up for her people, that she was no more tired than the rest of her days. Because of her refusal to get up, a 381 day Montgomery bus boycott was started and her arrest and trial caused the Supreme Court to rule segregation on buses unconstitutional. This opened the gates for many blacks to come one step closer to equality."

Her essay goes on it. That is part of the winning essay by Alyx Vanness from Conway High School East in the 10th grade in Conway, Arkansas. The high school winner of the what Rosa Parks means for my grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I include the essays of Brenna Gilstrap and Alyx Vanness for the RECORD.

#### WHAT ROSA PARKS WILL MEAN FOR MY CHILDREN

(By Brenna Gilstrap)

"Rosa Parks has always been an amazing icon to people everywhere, symbolizing strength and pride during a period in America where racism thrived. I believe everyone is familiar with her story, how she refused to give up her seat on the bus to another person (and she had to, simply because they were Caucasian) and how she was arrested for doing so. This story of a brave woman standing up for what she believed in, will, in my opinion, greatly influence the attitudes of my children, teaching them important morals. Speak your mind, even if your voice shakes. Ban ignorance, and pay attention to the mistakes made in the past in order to prevent them in the future. Always stand up for what you believe in, because even one little person can make a difference in thousands of lives. These are the things that my children will learn from her story, this is why it will mean something."

Examine the first moral: speak your mind, even if your voice shakes. What this means is that even if you're nervous, even if you

know the consequences to what you are saying can be brutal, as long as you feel deeply in your heart that a change needs to be made, express what you feel. Say exactly what you're thinking, and say why. Rosa Parks knew that the fuss she was making wasn't just about a good seat; it was about rights, equal rights, for one and all. The right to sit in the good seats, use the good bathrooms, go to the good parties, live the good life, a life without oppression. She spoke her mind, became an icon, an example, a legend; and I am sure that being a little nervous and a little afraid never stopped her. She knew the consequences, but she spoke out. This is what I want my children to do: say what they feel without being afraid of what might happen or what others would think.

Examine the next moral: ban ignorance. In other words, pay attention to what happened in the past to prevent mistakes from occurring again. Our country, just like all the others, has made a lot of mistakes: the Japanese camps set up in Arkansas after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, for example. Just because they looked somewhat Japanese, people were sent into crowded camps to live out their lives, forced to sell all that they had, forced to suffer for something they didn't even do. If we didn't learn from that, we might be keeping all people from the Middle East imprisoned now for something they weren't responsible for. And the segregation issues our nation went through concerning African Americans and their rights. If we didn't learn from that, I wouldn't have a lot of the friends that I do now. We would be separated from each other. Rosa Parks helped show America what a big mistake they were making, and I want my children to learn from that, and to stand up like that if they ever get caught in the mistakes of the world.

Lastly, examine my final moral: Stand up for what you believe in. This is a moral that no one can forget. When something unjust happens, like someone at your school becomes subject to a daily abusive torrent of insult and injury, or when a presidential candidate comes along that you strongly oppose, or when you are treated unfairly by someone around you, you have to stand up and fight. Don't ever forget that even one voice counts, even when amongst thousands, matters. Justice cannot be reached until you stand up and be counted; even just one more step is closer than no steps at all. Rosa took that step, she was counted. This is what I want my children to do: stand up for what they believe in, no matter what.

Rosa Parks was an amazing role model for all ages to look up to. Her timeless story and amazing perseverance in the eyes of oppression has touched, enlightened, and inspired for many generations. The astounding morals her story teaches are guidelines that should be followed in one's everyday life. Hopefully they will inspire my children to become the amazing and inspirational people of tomorrow as Rosa Parks was for yesterday. This is what Rosa Parks will mean for my children."

#### ROSA PARKS' STORY FOR MY GRANDCHILDREN

(By Alyx Vanness)

What I would like my grandchildren to remember about Rosa Parks is the true account of her stand for equality for blacks, and the many feats she overcame along the way. Even though she is usually remembered for only one of her protests, I would like my grandchildren to know all the rallies she took part in during her life, and how it affected the black community.

Rosa Parks became one of the most recognizable Civil Rights activist on December 1, 1955, when she refused to give up her seat

on a bus for a white man. Although a simple act with one woman protesting, it is one of her most remembered fights for justice among the races. The incident is later recalled by Parks in her book, *Quiet Strength*. "I kept thinking about my mother and my grandparents, and how strong they were. I knew there was a possibility of being mistreated, but an opportunity was being given to me to do what I had asked of others." Rosa Parks did just that when not going back to the colored section of the bus when a white man had told her to. Most historians account the refusal because she was tired from a long day's work, but to Parks, it was more than that. I would like my grandparents be told that she did it to specifically stand up for her people, that she was no more tired than the rest of her days. Because of her refusal to get up, a 381-day Montgomery bus boycott was started, and her arrest and trial caused the Supreme Court to rule segregation on buses unconstitutional. This opened the gates for many blacks to come one step closer to equality.

Even though the bus incident is one of her most remembered forms of protest, Parks was actively involved in the Civil Rights Movement long before 1955. She was actively involved in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), serving as secretary and later as Advisor to the Youth Council at the NAACP. She also tried to register to vote several times when it was still nearly impossible for blacks to do so. December of 1955 wasn't the first time she had run-ins with bus drivers, though. She was evicted from buses several times, recalling the humiliation. "I didn't want to pay my fare and then go around the back door, because many times, even if you did that, you might not get on the bus at all. They'd probably shut the door, drive off, and leave you standing there."

Parks understood the importance of standing up, and tried in every way to bring justice to her race. She knew that even though it was just her speaking up sometimes, someone had to do it, and once voice would cause others to be raised. Rosa Parks believed in non-violent protest, working along Martin Luther King with equality and black's rights. This is one of the most important lessons taught by Parks; violent does not solve anything. She fully stood behind the concept of peacefully making a difference, setting her apart from the blacks that use hate and fury to gain equality. This caused her to be more recognized and respected, consequently winning over a nation's heart for this quiet but strong spirit.

1995 marked the 40 year anniversary of Rosa Parks' refusal at the bus station, and she was still making a difference. Before her death earlier this year, she was active in Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development. It included a program that was Pathways to Freedom, where young people ages 11-18 traveled across the country tracing the Underground Railroad, visiting the scenes of critical events in the civil rights movement, and learning aspects of America's history. Many times she would involve herself in the cross country trip, and students loved talking to her about her experiences. Park's home was located in Detroit, where she still received dozens of letters daily from students, politicians, and just regular people.

The greatest characteristics of Rosa Parks was her humbleness and her faith in God. When named "The Mother of the Civil Rights Movement", she explained that although "[she] accept[ed] the honor and appreciat[ed] it," Parks makes sure that everyone knows that "[she] was not the only person involved. [She] was just one of the many who fought for freedom." Modesty and her willingness to



follow God's will has made her one of the most successful women in the Civil Rights Movement. She had strong religious convictions and in her book she states, "I'd like for [readers] to know that I had a very spiritual background and that I believe in church and my faith and that has helped to give me the strength and courage to live as I did."

Rosa Parks did a lot for the black community, and she needs to be remembered for her courageous actions. If I had my choice on what my grandchildren were taught about her, I would want them to know that she was a God fearing, modest, yet democratic woman. I want them to be told her whole story, not just about how she didn't give up her bus seat one day because she was too tired. Rosa Parks needs to be remembered for what she was; honorable.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE HENRY J. HYDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to have this opportunity to praise an intellectual giant, a true public servant, to honor my friend, my colleague, my chairman, HENRY HYDE. He has had unparalleled leadership skills and that is the way that he steers the House International Relations Committee, of which I am a proud member.

The committee has truly flourished under the chairman's direction in ways that it had not previously known. We have turned out significant pieces of legislation on a range of issues. HENRY HYDE's vision perhaps is best summarized by the words of Sir Winston Churchill, who said, "All great things are simple, and many can be expressed in single words: Freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope." This sentiment captures the essence of HENRY HYDE and of his style.

Serving as a subcommittee chair under Chairman HYDE, I have been privileged to witness firsthand the insight that has led him to be the skilled politician and public servant that he is. Pundits have referred to the chairman as a statesman; as a Washington icon; as a doer; as a wit; as one of the sharpest legal minds of Capitol Hill; an outspoken and articulate debater; a standard bearer for conservative principles, causes and beliefs; a Gibraltar of conviction; and an avatar of grace.

I would like to add a few of my own, Mr. Speaker. From what I have seen, HENRY's character and in turn his leadership is shaped by his multiple roles. He is a man of faith, a Patriot, a humanitarian, a friend and a mentor.

I remember in my freshman term meeting HENRY HYDE for the first time. Having followed HENRY's efforts on behalf of freedom fighters who have valiantly fought communism in our hemisphere, to me, HENRY HYDE was larger than life. As Congressman STEVE CHABOT said earlier, if Hollywood were

to cast a statesman, they couldn't find anyone better than the impressive and dashing HENRY HYDE.

I quickly learned that that imposing stature that he was nothing of a bullying nature in HENRY HYDE. On the contrary, the chairman, even in his most heated debates in our committee, when he must keep order at our hearings, he is a consummate gentleman, able to restore order with a fleeting, withering glance that belies the twinkle in his eye.

How appropriate that HENRY represents Illinois, as so many speakers have said, the land of Lincoln, for both the chairman and the American President are notable for their character, their eloquence, their determination.

Chairman HYDE's political career began 40 years ago as a representative in the Illinois legislature, where he served as that body's majority leader from 1971 to 1972.

In 1974, he was elected to this House, the People's House. Among other issues, HENRY became identified with the worthy cause of defending the unborn, championing his Appropriations Committee's amendments that would prohibit the use of Federal funds to pay for abortions. These were adopted into law in 1978, and the Hyde Amendment has been a great step forward in legislation that favors the sanctity of human life.

In this vein, HENRY has also been a supporter of adopting children and of assisting poor women to care for their children. He has lent his name to legislative initiatives taking tougher steps to hold deadbeat dads accountable for unpaid child support.

HENRY HYDE has come to be known as one of the House's great orators. His stirring speeches against term limits and against flag burning are particularly memorable.

In 1994, HENRY HYDE accepted the gavel of the powerful House Judiciary Committee, where he shepherded through the House many important pieces of legislation. Among these were the landmarks anti-terrorism legislation of 1995; enforcing in the U.S. the international treaty against war crimes; the church arson law of 1996; a victim restitution act; an act limiting death penalty appeals; Megan's Law, requiring released sex offenders to report their addresses; and a law allowing senior citizen housing to be allocated by age. Also, a law banning state taxes on pensions of non-residents; the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, the authorization of \$10 billion for prison expansion; protection of intellectual property rights in digital recording and biotech patents; the ban on partial-birth abortion; product liability; tort reform and so many others.

Turning to the chairman's leadership style, one of the most salient characteristics is his reputation for fairness. Indeed, the Washington Post noted in a 1998 article that HENRY HYDE "has managed to maintain a reputation for even-handedness, for patience and re-

straint, a remarkable feat for someone known both for his savagely held beliefs and for his keen sense of which way the wind blows."

Indeed, the ranking member of the International Relations Committee, my good friend TOM LANTOS of California, cogently addressed our chairman's embodiment of frankness and fairness when TOM said, "although our opinions on issues have differed from time to time, HENRY has always been very straightforward with me when he knows we might disagree. And once we have made our opinions known and once the voting is done, it has never had an adverse effect on our relationship."

Indeed, one thing we can all agree upon is that Chairman HYDE's leadership reflects the values that he places on fairness and his focus on getting the job done rather than on mere politicking.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend the gentleman from California, Mr. LUNGREN, who would like to add some statements about our great chairman HENRY HYDE.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

It has been my privilege during my lifetime to have three heroes living at the time that I was able to benefit from their example. They are my father, President Ronald Reagan and HENRY HYDE.

As the gentlelady knows, I served in the Congress for 10 years from 1979 to 1989, where I had the privilege of serving on the Judiciary Committee with HENRY HYDE all those 10 years. I served on the subcommittee dealing with civil rights with him, and if it had not been for HENRY HYDE we would not have had the extension of the Voting Rights Act of the early 1980s.

We had hearings all around the country. It may sound strange today, but at that time there was a question of whether or not that would be extended. It was HENRY HYDE who going around the country on field hearings who finally made a statement that he had seen the parade of horrors. He had seen that there was still a need to have this extraordinary law extended. Had it not been for HENRY HYDE, the Voting Rights Act would not have been extended. He has never gotten the credit for that.

HENRY HYDE is a gentle man; a large man, but a gentle man; someone who can argue on the floor of the House vociferously, but when it is over, he goes over and punches you in the arm and tells you a joke; a man who has all the dignity you would look for in a statesman; a man who has the intellect which we can all admire; a man who, when former Governor Cuomo made a well covered speech at the University of Notre Dame talking about the responsibility of a Catholic man or a Catholic woman in politics, HENRY HYDE had a slightly different take. So he then, a month later, spoke on the



campus of the University of Notre Dame and gave his version.

It was one of the most compelling speeches I have ever heard, telling that someone can be a man of faith and a man of the House, a man or woman of faith or a man or woman of the House.

He was so eloquent in the way he argued. There was in this House a stillness that came upon this floor when HENRY HYDE would get up to speak. Democrat and Republican and independent alike would stand at attention or sit at attention when HENRY HYDE came and spoke. It was a capstone of the argument to see HENRY HYDE present himself.

I am pleased that at one time I was able to have HENRY HYDE in my home community to speak to people on the very, very important issue of life. He always did it with a forthrightness, with a concern for the sensitivity of the subject, but always, always so grounded in the principles.

One time I asked HENRY about whether he ever got tired of dealing with the life issue. He said, "You know, sometimes I do. You get all this criticism, you get all of this attention that you don't want." And he said then, "But as you get older, you think of that day in the future where, if hopefully you get to heaven, all those unborn children are there to greet you to say thank you for what you have done."

That is HENRY HYDE. It is from the heart. It is from the head, because he has got a great intellect, but it is from the heart, because he truly believes it.

If there is one person that I admire most in this House, if there is one person who is the embodiment of all that is good in this House, if there is one person that compelled me to return to the Congress, it is HENRY HYDE; a friend, a statesman, a leader, a man of courage, someone who has fought his whole life for what is good and right about America, and someone I am happy to call a friend; but, more than that, someone I am happy to call a leader in this House, who has stood for everything great about this country.

This is a man who has dedicated himself to this country; a man who dedicated himself to his family; a man who dedicated himself to the principles that we all espouse. But he lived those principles as much as anybody I have ever met. I thank the gentle lady for yielding.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. Those are principles that he lives and stands on every day of his life.

One has to admire the chairman's measured judgment on foreign policy terrain as well, as when he noted with respect to the fall of Soviet communism, he said, "There has been a palpable feeling that the Cold War is over, and there are no serious threats with the Russian bear comatose. But as I like to say, the forest is full of dangerous snakes. There is a very important need for the United States to rec-

ognize that no one will rescue us. We have to be self-sufficient to really survive."

Truly, HENRY's vision of the importance of this self-sufficiency is emblematic of his approach to foreign policy.

The chairman's wisdom encourages us to be vigilant, as when he expressed that with regard to China, "The United States should be mindful that China was one of the world's most powerful nations for several thousands of years, and its relative weakness over the last two centuries is an historic anomaly that is coming to an end."

The chairman too has no illusions about U.S. Latin America policy. HENRY backs a strong American initiative to extend free trade between the United States and democratic nations in the hemisphere as a way of generating economic growth and creating jobs.

□ 2045

He said, "A lot of the problems in our hemisphere could be addressed if not solved by free trade. There is so much we have in common. I think a common wealth of the Americas would help everyone. But it will take real leadership and a bit of luck".

Regarding policy for the region over which my subcommittee, the Middle East and Central Asia Subcommittee has had jurisdiction, Chairman HYDE's no-nonsense convictions, blended with his foreign policy expertise and his political leadership led him to the conclusion that on September 11, he said, "Our enemies have no aim except destruction. Nothing to offer but a forced march to a bleak and dismal path. There is a world without light".

And he said, "We are now in a war, a war that is directed at America and the civilized world. It is that simple," he said. "We have to lead the world to oppose terrorism as a weapon against civilization, so this is a war for civilization. No country should harbor terrorists and we have tolerated countries that have tolerated terrorists. This must change".

He continued by saying, "The massive, obscene destruction of human life we saw in New York and Washington should show us all that terrorism cannot be tolerated. It has to be wiped off the map".

And it is not just our committee, or not just even our Nation that benefits from the leadership of HENRY HYDE, but the world is the greater for the existence and the leadership of someone of the caliber, of the passion, of the conviction of HENRY HYDE.

The chairman's dedication to diverting the United Nations from its course of scandal, of corruption, of secrecy, and instead toward accountability, toward transparency and effectiveness, culminated in the passage by this House last summer of the Henry Hyde United Nations Reform Act of 2005.

This reform measure with teeth urged that the U.S. should impose its

leverage to motivate the U.N. which has to this point been reluctant to consider substantive reform on its own through withholding of U.S. assess dues.

HENRY HYDE's AIDS funding legislation has also been a landmark piece of legislation. This measure authorizes \$1.3 billion annually to fight this horrible disease, which HENRY HYDE has said, "It is not just the deepest, darkest Africa we are dealing with, it is Brazil, it is the Caribbean, it is Russia, it is here in the United States, it is everyone in the world. As this pandemic spreads, we must do what we can do".

This body is truly fortunate to have had in its midst an individual who leads through knowledge gained. He has gained it in institutions of higher learning such as Loyola, Duke and Georgetown. He has gained it on the playing field, as when Chairman HYDE played basketball for the Hoyas, or in combat theatres with the U.S. Navy stationed in the Philippines, in the South Pacific, in New Guinea; or through the wise use of his gavel as majority leader, as chair of the Judiciary Committee, and now as chair of our International Relations Committee.

On his website, HENRY HYDE puts his 32 years of service as a U.S. Congressman in context by noting that during his time in office, we have persevered through many conflicts, including the Cold War, the Communist takeover in Nicaragua and in Grenada, the invasion of Kuwait, the removal of Noriega from Panama, genocide in Bosnia, bombing of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, invasion of Afghanistan, invasion of Iraq, and the present defense of our Nation against Islamic insurgents and terrorists.

That is a lot of conflicts, and for that matter, 32 years means almost infinite constituent letters, town hall meetings, legislative victories, press interviews, but most of all, in the course of these 32 years, HENRY HYDE has shared his passion, and his blood, sweat and tears with the American people.

I want to express any sincere gratitude to HENRY HYDE not just for being a great legislator, a leader in wit, but also for being an inspiration to us all. You have touched our lives in ways that we could never truly express. And we are all the better for having had the privilege of serving alongside you.

Mr. Speaker, with that I would like to yield to my good friend on the International Relations Committee, Mr. FORTENBERRY.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) who chairs the International Relations Subcommittee for Middle East and Central Asia Affairs on which I serve, for organizing this time to honor an extraordinary legislator, an extraordinary statesman, Mr. HENRY HYDE.

It is a rare privilege in the course of a lifetime to know someone who possesses equal portions of wisdom, intellectual brilliance, robust humor, and

great humility. I consider it a tremendous honor to serve on the House International Relations Committee under the Chairmanship of such a man, Representative HENRY HYDE.

Since 1975, the people of Illinois' Sixth District have enriched the United States by their wise choice for a Member of Congress.

During his long and distinguished tenure in the House, Chairman HYDE has provided decisive leadership at pivotal moments in the recent history of U.S. foreign policy and on many issues of principle which determined the character of our great Nation.

In particular, I would like to honor his commitment to protect the lives of vulnerable persons, particularly the unborn in the United States and throughout the world.

Also I would like to thank Mr. HYDE for his sage counsel nurtured through years of experience and tempered by some of the most grueling episodes of the 20th century. As a member of the Greatest Generation, he served his country in the United States Navy during World War II, and knows firsthand the sacrifice that it took to prevail in that struggle against the enemies of freedom and human dignity.

While we face different challenges today, they require no less vision, commitment, and perseverance. As a careful student of history, Chairman HYDE cautioned us in a recent speech that he entitled, the Perils of the Golden Theory. He reminds us of the need to tread carefully as we seek to promote our ideas in a world where the values we cherish may often be considered alien and are subject to frequent unrelenting assaults.

As we look to the remainder of this session and consider the opportunities and challenges before us, I am grateful that we will continue to benefit from the leadership of Chairman HYDE.

Just this week, Mr. Speaker, I asked the chairman if he would do me a favor and meet with a group of college students interested in international diplomacy. Despite the rigors of his calendar, he enthusiastically agreed, and this small act of generosity alone speaks volumes about the nature and character of our chairman.

His ability to command the respect of both Democrats and Republicans remains an invaluable asset to this Congress. I am confident that his legacy will continue to inform and inspire many generations of Members to come.

I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for giving his insight.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure for Republican and Democrat Members alike to have served and to continue to serve under the tutelage of HENRY HYDE. He has tackled all of the big issues. Tomorrow, as a matter of fact, in our International Relations Committee, we will be debating Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, he is not afraid to tackle those big, controversial issues. And

that has been part of his character. He has taken on the issues. He has done it in a very fair, impartial way. And that is why in the coming months, because we still have HENRY HYDE around for a long, long time, you will be seeing my good friend, Mr. LANTOS, on the other side leading a series of special orders honoring a great statesman, the great leader, our chairman, HENRY HYDE.

#### HONORING HENRY HYDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, tonight, we are coming down here to honor one of the greatest orators that has ever been a Member of the House of Representatives. HENRY HYDE, I have known for about 24 years, and I do not think there is a finer Member of Congress that has ever served in this body.

He, along with another great orator named Claude Pepper on the Democrat side, made great speeches, speeches that are in the history books and in the record here in Congress, but speeches that I wish everybody in America could have heard.

HENRY has been a great defender of human rights, of the right to life. He is one of the leaders on the right-to-life issue in the Congress, and he has been fighting for human rights and human life for a long, long time, and he has no peer in that area.

He has also been the chairman of the International Relations Committee and he serves in that position today. He is retiring at the end of this term, and I can tell you right now, everybody that knows HENRY is going to miss him, miss him not only because he was a great chairman or is a great chairman, but because he has been a great inspiration to us and a great leader in this body.

I have a lot of things I want to put in the RECORD tonight. I will not go into all those things because I am sure my colleagues will mention a lot of them, but HENRY has honorary degrees from a whole slew of institutions, universities and colleges around this country. He has been honored in so many ways because of his leadership, and he is a man that everybody in America could look up to if they knew him as well as we do.

So, tonight, I would just like to say, HENRY, if you are home watching this, and there is probably better things on TV than watching me talk, let me just say that we love you, buddy. We are going to miss you, and we think you are one of the greatest Americans that ever served in this body.

Mr. Speaker, I have known HENRY HYDE for many years and I admire him immensely. HENRY's voice has been a voice of reason over years often marked by turbulence and discord. He has always offered a hopeful view of international affairs. His reassuring calm wit, and his profound analytical skills and intellect

have contributed to all of our understanding of the many dimensions of foreign affairs—and America's role in the global community.

Today, I want to talk about the legacy that he has created and that we will carry forward as colleagues in the realm of foreign affairs, and in many ways, as students of his stewardship of congressional oversight of the conduct of U.S. foreign policy. HENRY was sworn into the House of Representatives in 1975, and when he took over the chairmanship of this committee he wasted no time to make his mark:

Chairman HYDE was instrumental in leading the charge to establish the Millennium Challenge Account to provide increased support for developing countries that are tackling corruption and instituting democratic reform and the rule of law. HENRY always paid attention to the fine details in any discussion about the impact and effectiveness of United States foreign assistance; about public diplomacy, about dispute resolution and conflict situations.

Chairman HYDE's oversight of the Oil-for-Food Investigation has been steady and determined. The United Nations Reform Act of 2005 establishes a timetable for 46 specific reforms using U.S. dues payments as leverage for change.

HENRY has made massive contributions to the fight against HIV/AIDS, helping push forward commitments to invest \$15 billion over next 5 years to reduce infections from HIV/AIDS worldwide and provide lifesaving care and drugs to millions already infected.

Microenterprise owners in some of the poorest countries around the world are benefiting from important legislation that HENRY has advocated to make more efficient the U.S. foreign assistance programs that target loans and grant assistance for small enterprises.

HENRY's views on the Global War on Terrorism have been instructive and reassuring. He has steadfastly advocated key post-September 11th measures to improve how intelligence is gathered and managed, to tighten identification infrastructure, root out terrorists from so-called safe sanctuaries; and HENRY has advocated much more proactive public diplomacy programs in the Muslim world. These are just a few of his contributions.

HENRY has also been a human rights defender, strong voice for freedom to every corner of the planet, from Burma and North Korea, to Haiti, Cuba, Iraq, Iran and Darfur. We have worked together on many key issues, and a recurring theme is the nexus between terrorism and drug trafficking in places like the Andean Region in South America, and the social degradation and violence that captures communities in vicious cycles. Together we have looked for innovative ways to break these cycles. I have enjoyed working with HENRY immensely.

Most recently I have listened carefully to HENRY's public statements about rising powers like China and India, their management of the challenges of globalization, and how we can engage these rising powers in the areas of non-proliferation, economic security, and democratic institution building.

HENRY has been a tireless warrior and an inspiration to us all. As we pay tribute to our friend today, I want to add my voice and say Thank you HENRY.

#### OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION EDUCATION

Graduated 1942, St. George High School, Evanston, Illinois

B.S., 1947, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. (Also attended Duke University, Durham, N.C.)

J.D., 1949, Loyola University School of Law, Chicago, Illinois

Doctor of Laws (Hon.), St. Joseph's College, Standish, Maine

Doctor of Laws (Hon.), Allentown College, Center Valley, Pennsylvania

Doctor of Laws (Hon.), Campbell University, Buies Creek, North Carolina

Doctor of Laws (Hon.), University of Dallas, Dallas, Texas

Doctor of Humane Letters (Hon.), Illinois Benedictine College, Lisle, Illinois

Doctor of Humanities (Hon.), Lewis University, Romeoville, Illinois

Director of Public Administration (Hon.), Midwest College of Engineering, Lombard, Illinois

Associate in Arts (Hon.), Triton College, River Grove, Illinois

#### MILITARY SERVICE

Enlisted U.S. Navy, November 11, 1942

Attended Navy V-12 Program at Duke University and Notre Dame University, 1943-44, Midshipman's School, 1944

Commissioned Ensign, USNR, October, 1944, and served in South Pacific, New Guinea and in combat in the Philippines until August 1946

Served in the U.S. Naval Reserve, 1946-68; retired at the rank of Commander, after serving as officer in charge, U.S. Naval Intelligence Reserve Unit, Chicago

#### PROFESSIONAL

Admitted to Illinois Bar, January 9, 1950, and entered private practice specializing in litigation

Past President of Trial Lawyers Club of Chicago

Past Chairman, Illinois Crime Investigating Commission

#### AWARDS AND HONORS

National D-Day Museum's American Spirit Medallion, 2004

Great Defender of Life Award, the Human Life Foundation, 2003

Chairman's Award, the DuPage County Workforce Board, 2003

True Blue Award, the Family Research Council, 2003

Friend of the Year, Marklund Children's Home, 2000

Life: the Choice for a New Millennium Award, Georgetown University Council of the Knights of Columbus, 2000

Michael Kuhn Award, National Hemophilia Foundation, 1999

Statesmanship Award, Claremont Institute, 1999

Sword of Loyola for Service to Country, Respect for Life, and Leadership in Government, Stritch School of Medicine of Loyola University, 1995

Catholic American of the Year, Catholic Campaign for America, 1994

Watchdog of the Treasury Award, annually from 1975 to present. Given to legislators for their votes to curb federal spending.

Guardian of Small Business, given annually by the National Federation of Independent Business for voting record on issues important to America's small and family-owned businesses

Grace Caucus Award, Citizens Against Government Waste

Sound Dollar Award, Free Congress Foundation

National Security Leadership Award, Disabled American Veterans

Distinguished Service Award, Disabled American Veterans

Alumni Medal of Excellence, Loyola University School of Law

Distinguished Citizens Citation, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2210

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS) at 10 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5252, COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-491) on the resolution (H. Res. 850) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5522, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-492) on the resolution (H. Res. 851) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5522) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BACA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today before 4:00 p.m. on account of business in the district.

Mr. BISHOP of New York (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and June 8.

Ms. SLAUGHTER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a family illness.

Mr. MANZULLO (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for the week of June 6 on account of a family illness.

Mr. OSBORNE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for June 6 and until 2:00 p.m. today on account of official business.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. PELOSI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MCKINNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SNYDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, June 8 and 13.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, June 14.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CHABOT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. HARRIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 10 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7842. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the Department's intention to close the Defense commissary stores at Giebelstadt and Kitzingen Air Base, Germany on August 1, 2006; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7843. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a report to Congress on the use of Aviation Career Incentive Pay (ACIP) and Aviation Continuation Pay (ACP) Program for Fiscal Year 2005, pursuant to 37 U.S.C. 301a(a); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7844. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report presenting the specific

amounts of staff-years of technical effort to be allocated for each Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC) during Fiscal Year 2007, pursuant to Public Law 109-148, section 8026(e); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7845. A letter from the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the annual report to Congress on material violations or suspected material violations of regulations relating to Treasury auctions and other offerings of securities by Treasury, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3121 nt.; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7846. A letter from the Program Analyst, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Average Fuel Standards for Light Trucks Model Years 2008-2011 [Docket No. 2006-24306] (RIN: 2127-AJ61) received April 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7847. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a supplement to the Department's "Country Reports on Terrorism: 2005," pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2656f(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

7848. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

7849. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report mandated in the Participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization Act, 2004 (Pub. L. 108-235), Section 1(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

7850. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning methods employed by the Government of Cuba to comply with the United States-Cuba September 1994 "Joint Communique" and the treatment by the Government of Cuba of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 "Joint Statement," together known as the Migration Accords, pursuant to Public Law 105-277, section 2245; to the Committee on International Relations.

7851. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed transfer of major defense equipment from the Government of the Netherlands (Transmittal No. RSAT-01-06); to the Committee on International Relations.

7852. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2006-14 on Certification on Rescission of Libya's Designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism; to the Committee on International Relations.

7853. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report providing information on steps taken by the U.S. Government to bring about an end to the Arab League boycott of Israel and to expand the process of normalization between Israel and the Arab League countries, as requested in Section 535 Division D of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Pub. L. 108-447); to the Committee on International Relations.

7854. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report regarding the amount of acquisitions made by

the Department from entities that manufacture articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States, pursuant to Public Law 108-447, Division H; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7855. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the semi-annual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7856. A letter from the Acting Inspector General, Department of Defense, transmitting in compliance with the "Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998," (Pub. L. 105-270, the FAIR Act), the inventory of commercial and inherently government activities for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7857. A letter from the Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7858. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's report entitled, "Federal Student Loan Repayment Program FY 2005," pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5379(a)(1)(B) Public Law 106-398, section 1122; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7859. A letter from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Letter Report: Review of Relocation and Related OCTO Employees' Expenses Paid For by the Office of the Chief Technology Officer for Fiscal Years 2001 Through 2003"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7860. A letter from the Chairman, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the semi-annual report on activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(d); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7861. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting a copy of draft legislation to reauthorize the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board for an additional five years, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1110; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7862. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Postal Service, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period ending March 31, 2006 and the Management Response for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7863. A letter from the Executive Director, United States Access Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2005 report, pursuant to the requirements of section 203(b) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No Fear Act); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7864. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones; Captain of the Port Zone Jacksonville, FL [COTP Jacksonville, FL (RIN: 1625-AA87) received May 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7865. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security and Safety Zone; Protection of Large Passenger Vessels, Portland, OR [CGD13-06-019] (RIN: 1625-AA00)

received May 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7866. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Portland Rose Festival on Willamette River [CGD13-06-020] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received May 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7867. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Live-Fire Gun Exercise, Southeast of Ocean City, MD, Atlantic Ocean [COTP Hampton Roads 06-046] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7868. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; San Carlos Bay, FL [COTP St. Petersburg 06-066] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7869. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: M/V ZHEN HUA 1 Crane Delivery Operation, Columbia River, Portland Oregon [CGD13-06-016] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7870. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: Trojan Power Plant Cooling Tower Implosion, Rainier, Oregon [CGD13-06-012] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7871. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Romeoville, IL [CGD09-06-018] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7872. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; 1.5NM North of Glass Breakwater, Philippine Sea, GU [COTP Guam 06-004] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7873. A letter from the Program Analyst, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Vehicles Built in Two or More Stages [Docket No. NHTSA-2006-24664] (RIN: 2127-AJ91) received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7874. A letter from the Program Analyst, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Controls, Telltales and Indicators [Docket No. NHTSA-2006-23651] (RIN: 2127-AJ81) received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7875. A letter from the Program Analyst, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Penalties [Docket No. NHTSA-05-24109;

Notice 2] (RIN: 2127-AJ83) received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7876. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Reservation System for Unscheduled Arrivals at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport [Docket No. FAA-2005-19411; SFAR No. 105] (RIN: 2120-AI47) received April 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7877. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Holy Cross, AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-22854; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAL-34] received April 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7878. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E5 Airspace; Hill City, KS [Docket No. FAA-2005-22745; Airspace Docket No. 05-ACE-31] received April 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7879. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, Weather Takeoff Minimums; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30491; Amdt. No. 3164] received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7880. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30492; Amdt. No. 3165] received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7881. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Valdez Pioneer Field, AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-22686; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAL-42] received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7882. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Cold Bay, AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-23275; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAL-40] received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7883. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; St. Paul Island, AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-22687; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAL-23] received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7884. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Minchumina, AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-23276; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAK-41] received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7885. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Enroute Domestic Airspace Area; Vandenberg AFB, CA [Docket No. FAA-2005-23271; Airspace Docket No. 05-

AWP-15] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7886. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Kuparuk, AK [Docket No. FAA-2006-23712; Airspace Docket No. 06-AAL-05] received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7887. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Minchumina, AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-23276; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAL-41] received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7888. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Middleton Island, AK [Docket No. FAA-2006-23711; Airspace Docket No. 06-AAL-04] received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7889. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Galbraith Lake, AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-22857; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAL-37] received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7890. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Herlong, CA [Docket No. FAA-2004-19684; Airspace Docket 04-ANM-24] received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7891. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Restricted Areas R-3002A, B, C, D, E and F; and Establishment of Restricted Area R-3002G; Fort Benning, GA [Docket No. FAA-2006-23531; Airspace Docket No. 04-AS-14] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7892. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Mason City Municipal Airport, IA [Docket No. FAA-2006-24370; Airspace Docket No. 06-ACE-3] received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7893. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Removal of Class E Airspace; Paducah Farrington Airpark, KY [Docket No. FAA-2006-24285; Airspace Docket No. 06-ASO-4] received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7894. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class D Airspace; Bay St. Louis, MS [Docket No. FAA-2006-23590; Airspace Docket No. 06-ASO-2] received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7895. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revi-

sion of Class E Airspace; Togiak Village, AK [Docket No. FAA-2006-23713; Airspace Docket No. 06-AAI-06] received May 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7896. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Waters Surrounding U.S. Forces Vessel SBX-1, HI [COTP Honolulu 06-005] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received May 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7897. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Tampa, FL [COTP St. Petersburg 06-063] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7898. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting an annual report concerning operations at the Naval Petroleum Reserves for fiscal year 2006, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 6501 note; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Energy and Commerce.

7899. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to Section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and Division D, Title V, Section 515 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, as enacted in Pub. L. 108-447, notification that implementation of the FY 2006 International Military Education and Training (IMET) program, as approved by the Department of State, requires revisions to the levels justified in the FY 2006 Congressional Budget Justification for Foreign Operations for the enclosed list of countries; jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

7900. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2006-12, waiving and certifying the statutory provisions regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Office, pursuant to Public Law 108-447, section 534(d); jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

7901. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report on the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)'s fiscal year 2005 obligations and expenditures for assistance provided to each eligible country, as required under the Millennium Challenge Act (Pub. L. 108-199, Section 613); jointly to the Committees on International Relations, the Judiciary, Ways and Means, Resources, and Government Reform.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 4084. A bill to amend the Forest Service use and occupancy permit program to restore the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to utilize the special use permit fees collected by the Secretary in connection with the establishment and operation of marinas in units of the National Forest System derived from the public domain, and for other purposes (Rept. 109-490 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 850.



Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote deployment of broadband networks and services (Rept. 109-491). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida Committee on Rules. House Resolution 851. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5522) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes (Rept. 109-492). Referred to the House Calendar.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. GORDON, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. MCCAUL of Texas):

H.R. 5538. A bill to reduce the Nation's dependence on foreign sources of oil by promoting plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and related advanced vehicle technologies; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. POMBO (for himself, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. GILCHREST, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. DINGELL, and Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5539. A bill to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. POE, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PAUL, Mr. HENSARLING, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. HALL, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. CARTER, Mr. DELAY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. REYES, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. BARTON of Texas):

H.R. 5540. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 217 Southeast 2nd Street in Dimmitt, Texas, as the "Sergeant Jacob Dan Dones Post Office"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. BONILLA (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. GOHMERT, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. POE, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. HALL, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. DOOLITTLE):

H.R. 5541. A bill to reform immigration litigation procedures; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDOZA:

H.R. 5542. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an additional penalty for public officials who abuse their office in furtherance of a felony; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia:

H.R. 5543. A bill to ensure that the average fuel economy achieved by automobiles manufactured after 2016 is no less than 33 miles per gallon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 5544. A bill to provide for the security of critical energy infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 5545. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that projects funded through the National Institutes of Health comply with wage rate requirements commonly referred to as the "Davis-Bacon Act", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. SPRATT, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 5546. A bill to designate the Federal courthouse to be constructed in Greenville, South Carolina, as the "Carroll A. Campbell, Jr. Federal Courthouse"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JINDAL:

H.R. 5547. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a Gulf Coast Long-Term Recovery Office to administer amounts available to the Department for providing assistance to the residents of the Gulf Coast region for recovering from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mrs. MCCARTHY):

H.R. 5548. A bill to authorize assistance for women and girls in Iraq, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 5549. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove certain limitations on attorney representation of claimants for veterans benefits in administrative proceedings before the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. SPRATT, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LANTOS, and Ms. DELAUNO):

H.R. 5550. A bill to provide certain requirements for labeling textile fiber products and for duty-free and quota-free treatment of products of, and to implement minimum wage and immigration requirements in, the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RENZI (for himself, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. POE, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. GOODE, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky):

H.R. 5551. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to amend the requirement that interstate firearms sales by

Federal firearms licensees be made in accordance with the State law of the purchaser; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WOLF:

H.R. 5552. A bill to establish a commission to develop legislation designed to reform tax policy and entitlement benefit programs and ensure a sound fiscal future for the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. TERRY, and Ms. DELAUNO):

H. Con. Res. 424. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida (for herself, Mr. LEACH, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. BASS, Mr. PORTER, Mr. SIMMONS, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DENT, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. KELLY, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. KELLER, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. MICA, and Mr. HAYWORTH):

H. Res. 852. A resolution expressing the sense of the House that Members of Congress are not immune from having their offices searched; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky:

H. Res. 853. A resolution congratulating the Small Business Development Centers of the Small Business Administration on their commitment to service America's small business owners and entrepreneurs; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (for himself, Ms. WATERS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. NEY, and Mr. OXLEY):

H. Res. 854. A resolution recognizing National Homeownership Month and the importance of homeownership in the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROHRBACHER:

H. Res. 855. A resolution commending the cooperation of important allies in counterterrorist operations, condemning the criticism of such cooperation by the European Parliament, and commending the counterterrorism efforts of the Central Intelligence Agency; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 208: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 389: Mr. ENGEL.  
H.R. 415: Mr. NEUGEBAUER and Mr. TANCREDI.  
H.R. 503: Mr. HAYWORTH.  
H.R. 559: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan and Ms. BERKLEY.  
H.R. 583: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. WALSH.  
H.R. 601: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.  
H.R. 699: Mr. MURPHY and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.  
H.R. 717: Mr. FORD.  
H.R. 783: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. RAHALL.  
H.R. 792: Mr. ENGEL.  
H.R. 874: Mr. THORNBERRY and Mr. EVERETT.  
H.R. 881: Mr. AKIN.  
H.R. 968: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 995: Mr. LAHOOD.  
H.R. 1175: Mr. GOODE.  
H.R. 1264: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. MCHUGH.  
H.R. 1366: Mr. BERRY.  
H.R. 1384: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. POE, Mr. BERRY, and Mrs. EMERSON.  
H.R. 1424: Mr. ENGEL.  
H.R. 1447: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 1549: Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania and Mr. SANDERS.  
H.R. 1697: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 1816: Mr. PICKERING.  
H.R. 1898: Mr. BOSWELL and Ms. GRANGER.  
H.R. 2061: Mr. CRAMER.  
H.R. 2231: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MARSHALL, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.  
H.R. 2646: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mr. JINDAL.  
H.R. 2694: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.  
H.R. 2730: Mr. SHAYS and Mr. SAXTON.  
H.R. 2861: Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.  
H.R. 2962: Mrs. DAVIS of California.  
H.R. 3312: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.  
H.R. 3380: Mr. FILNER.  
H.R. 3427: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELAUNO, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.  
H.R. 3476: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. SWEENEY, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.  
H.R. 3478: Mr. KINGSTON and Mr. BACA.  
H.R. 3628: Mr. MURTHA.  
H.R. 3760: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and Mr. CLYBURN.  
H.R. 3852: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.  
H.R. 3928: Mr. MCHUGH.  
H.R. 4033: Mr. EMANUEL.  
H.R. 4045: Mrs. LOWEY.  
H.R. 4063: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.  
H.R. 4092: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
H.R. 4188: Mr. OLVER and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 4325: Mrs. KELLY.  
H.R. 4381: Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. WEXLER.  
H.R. 4403: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, and Mr. McDERMOTT.  
H.R. 4408: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.  
H.R. 4446: Ms. GRANGER.  
H.R. 4573: Ms. MCKINNEY.  
H.R. 4621: Mr. NORWOOD, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. CARTER.  
H.R. 4712: Mr. WU.  
H.R. 4767: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.  
H.R. 4824: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 4843: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.  
H.R. 4857: Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, and Mr. GIBBONS.  
H.R. 4894: Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. BASS, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. POE, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. ISSA.  
H.R. 4901: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.  
H.R. 4903: Mr. SANDERS.  
H.R. 4914: Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. CONYERS.  
H.R. 4932: Mr. BOSWELL.  
H.R. 4982: Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. EMANUEL.  
H.R. 5005: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. KELLER, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 5013: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. KELLER, Mr. TANCREDI, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mrs. DRAKE, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. BOYD, and Mr. GALLEGLY.  
H.R. 5024: Mr. SHAYS and Mr. GILLMOR.  
H.R. 5052: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. PASTOR, and Ms. MATSUI.  
H.R. 5057: Mr. FORTUÑO.  
H.R. 5100: Mrs. KELLY.  
H.R. 5134: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.  
H.R. 5139: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas and Mr. ALLEN.  
H.R. 5140: Mr. PAYNE and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.  
H.R. 5182: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. REYES, Mr. BAKER, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. JENKINS.  
H.R. 5200: Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. KELLY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MURTHA, and Mr. DEFazio.  
H.R. 5201: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. SHAW, and Mr. THORNBERRY.  
H.R. 5206: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GORDON, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. FORD.  
H.R. 5208: Mr. MCCOTTER.  
H.R. 5230: Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.  
H.R. 5238: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. DUNCAN.  
H.R. 5249: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, and Mr. JENKINS.  
H.R. 5255: Mr. DUNCAN.  
H.R. 5262: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. McHENRY, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. AKIN, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. RYUN of Kansas.  
H.R. 5289: Mr. MANZULLO.  
H.R. 5312: Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.  
H.R. 5315: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.  
H.R. 5321: Mr. MICHAUD and Mr. PAYNE.  
H.R. 5332: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 5337: Ms. BEAN, Mr. COBLE, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. LEACH, and Mr. MATHESON.  
H.R. 5346: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. FORD, and Mr. JEFFERSON.  
H.R. 5363: Mr. ABERCROMBIE and Mr. GOHMERT.  
H.R. 5364: Mr. STARK.  
H.R. 5405: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. KING of Iowa.  
H.R. 5431: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota and Ms. HERSETH.  
H.R. 5453: Mr. REHBERG, Mr. MANZULLO, and Mr. WAMP.  
H.R. 5457: Mr. FORBES, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. CARTER, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. KLINE, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. CONAWAY.  
H.R. 5458: Mr. HINOJOSA.  
H.R. 5464: Mr. KLINE and Mrs. CUBIN.  
H.R. 5474: Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 5499: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CASE, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 5533: Mr. BURGESS.  
H.R. 5536: Mr. BASS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.  
H.J. Res. 86: Mr. PITTS.  
H.J. Res. 88: Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. KLINE, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, and Mr. MARSHALL.  
H. Con. Res. 404: Mr. FILNER and Mr. SHAYS.  
H. Con. Res. 407: Mr. MURPHY.  
H. Con. Res. 409: Mrs. TAUSCHER.  
H. Con. Res. 416: Mr. OWENS, Mr. WYNN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. CLEAV-ER.  
H. Res. 490: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.  
H. Res. 688: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.  
H. Res. 723: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. DOGGETT.  
H. Res. 776: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.  
H. Res. 777: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. MEEKS of New York.  
H. Res. 786: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. FOSSELLA, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
H. Res. 793: Mr. NORWOOD.  
H. Res. 794: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. BERKLEY.  
H. Res. 800: Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
H. Res. 826: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DENT, Mr. CANTOR, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. HAYES, Mr. COBLE, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. PENCE, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. WYNN, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. NADLER, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. CLEAV-ER, Mr. WEINER, Ms. WATSON, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ALLEN.  
H. Res. 838: Mrs. SCHMIDT.  
H. Res. 844: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.

## DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 5230: Mr. TOWNS.

## AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 5522

OFFERED BY: Mr. BLUMENAUER

AMENDMENT No. 1: In the item relating to "DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE", after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by \$250,000,000)".

In the item relating to "FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM", after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$250,000,000)".

H.R. 5522

OFFERED BY: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT No. 2: Page 23, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced to \$0)".

H.R. 5522

OFFERED BY: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE OF FLORIDA

AMENDMENT No. 3: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:



LIMITATION ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR MEXICO

SEC. 5xx. Of the funds appropriated in this Act under the heading "INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT", not more than \$39,000,000 may be available for assistance for Mexico.

H.R. 5522

OFFERED BY: MR. CULBERSON

AMENDMENT No. 4: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE FOR MEXICO

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for assistance for Mexico.

H.R. 5522

OFFERED BY: MR. KING OF IOWA

AMENDMENT No. 5: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND ASSISTANCE FOR MEXICO

SEC. 5xx. None of the funds made available in this Act under the heading "ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND" may be used to provide assistance for Mexico.

H.R. 5522

OFFERED BY: MR. LYNCH

AMENDMENT No. 6: Page 4, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

Page 38, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

H.R. 5522

OFFERED BY: MR. MCGOVERN

AMENDMENT No. 7: In the item relating to "ANDEAN COUNTERDRUG INITIATIVE" (page \_\_\_, line \_\_\_), after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$30,000,000)".

In the item relating to "UNITED STATES EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUND" (page \_\_\_, line \_\_\_), after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by \$30,000,000)".

H.R. 5522

OFFERED BY: MR. MCGOVERN

AMENDMENT No. 8: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE FOR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

SEC. 5xx. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for programs at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation located at Fort Benning, Georgia.

H.R. 5522

OFFERED BY: MRS. MUSGRAVE

AMENDMENT No. 9: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES THAT PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF UNITED STATES BEEF

SEC. 5xx. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide assistance to any country identified by the Department of Agriculture as a country that prohibits

the importation of United States beef from animals less than 30 months of age.

H.R. 5522

OFFERED BY: MR. POE

AMENDMENT No. 10: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 5xx. Appropriations made in this Act are hereby reduced in the amount of \$597,000,000.

H.R. 5522

OFFERED BY: MR. POE

AMENDMENT No. 11: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES

SEC. 5xx. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide assistance to any country the government of which does not accept the transfer from the United States of citizens or nationals of such country who have been issued a final removal order by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

H.R. 5522

OFFERED BY: MR. TERRY

AMENDMENT No. 12: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON FUNDS

SEC. 5xx. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of section 2320(a) of title 18, United States Code.